



chatter: Helmut Stern
photos: Niki Rotor Aviation,
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Power Duo

Niki and Megy from Bulgaria have been known in the gyrocopter scene for many years. Now, the likeable father-daughter duo has finally managed to advance into the top league of gyrocopter manufacturers, with the German certification of *Niki Kallithea*.

“Niki Rotor Aviation is not a business, it is a passion, it is a dream, it is an art. And we love and live the art of flying.” describes Nikolay “Niki” Nikolov, mastermind and founder of Niki Rotor Aviation, the philosophy of the company. And this statement is confirmed not only in the conversation, but especially when the Niki gyros *Lightning* and *Kallithea* will be presented on the ground and in the air. This is innovative engineering art coupled with noble design and a sophisticated aerodynamics, which ensure excellent flight characteristics. Now, with the certification of *Kallithea* (and *Ligthing* is also in progress), the Bulgarian manufacturer got the “knightly accolade” in the scene. A remarkable achievement from a country where sport aviation is still in its infancy - one hand is enough for counting flying gyrocopters in the airspace of Bulgaria. The idea of building a gyrocopter was born in 2004 in Niki’s head, who had been an aeromodelling designer for many years. He then did his first flight on a gyroplane in 2006: „I fell in love with this flying machine and from day one I knew that this will be my direction. And I have seen a lot, and experienced different kind of gyroplanes, but none of them was exactly what I was looking for, so I decided to invent my own.” And finally, in December of 2008, the first Niki gyro, called *Apis* made her maiden flight. In 2010 it was followed by the founding of Niki Rotor Aviation and the development of the two latest models. Niki gyros currently fly in: France, Germany, Hungary, New Zealand and USA.

www.nikiaviation.com



In the cockpit of a *Niki Kallithea*. The model name gives you a clue of the extraordinary view in this gyroplane, because the Greek word translated means: “Good View” (kalli =good, thea=view). There are several attractive places named “Kallithea” in Greece.



At the headquarters of Niki Rotor Aviation in Bulgaria. The imaginative designer and aviation enthusiast Nikolov Nikolay (58) with his daughter Megy (33), who supports her father’s passion and managed the international appearance of Niki Rotor as COO.



Since 28-Feb-2019 with German Type Certificate: *Niki Kalithea*, a mature product after ten years of development work, realized by Bulgarians’ first gyroplane manufacturer. The basic version with Rotax 912 engine costs 66,000 € (~ 75,000 USD) ex. VAT.

“Niki Rotor Aviation - The Art of Flying”, a current video report (published in April 2019) with nice aerial footage and many technical details about the two Niki Rotor gyroplane models *Kallithea* and *Lightning*:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oGYmCwzG2iA>