

Keeping Up with Superman

In close collaboration with the passionate sky diver and military jet, as well as commercial aircraft pilot, Yves Rossy, an international team by prospective concepts developed the inflatable wing FLYING MAN, which is able to turn free-fall into glide. Shifting body weight as well as foot and hand movements control the flight direction.



Right after leaving the airplane, Yves Rossy pulls something, but not the strings to open up the parachute, he does that much later. He operates a valve through which compressed air enters his wing made of coated high-strength fibres. After approximately two seconds, the wing reaches its maximum strength, the falling movement turns into a gliding movement, and Rossy is flying. FLYING MAN has been optimized by Ukrainian scientists for aerodynamics and features a wingspan of 8.2 feet. It does not carry like a glider, but still at an impressive glide ratio of 4 to 5. Assuming a vertical height of 1.2 miles, Yves can cruise horizontally for about 5 to 6 miles before he has to open the traditional parachute for a safe landing.

The technical devices are located in the solid middle of the wing. The parachute is fixed to the back as usual. In case of emergency, the entire wing can be separated from the body with one grip.

So far, FLYING MAN has completed over 40 flights, in which the single components could be adapted and the steering methods improved gradually. Prior to these flights, numerous tests had been made in the wind tunnel, using various prototypes and models.



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