WORLD'S FIRST 4-SEATER HYDROGEN FUEL-CELL PLANE TAKES OFF IN GERMANY

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Aircraft engineers in Germany have tested the world's first four-seater plane that uses emission-free hybrid fuel cells to fly.

The 10-minute test flight on Thursday at Stuttgart Airport in southwestern Germany involved two pilots and two dummy passengers.

The twin-cabin plane, known as HY4, was developed by the aircraft maker Pipistrel, the fuel cell specialist Hydrogenics, the University of Ulm and the German Aerospace Center DLR.

World's first 4-seater hydrogen fuel-cell plane takes off in Germany

It uses hydrogen to generate electricity in-flight, giving it a cruising speed of 165 kilometres per hour and a range of up to 1,500km, while relying on batteries for take-off and landing.

Boeing and Airbus have also tested smaller fuel cell planes in recent years as the aircraft industry searches for ways to reduce emissions.

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