

# Press Release

27th February 2003

## Lite Vent Patent Issued

Notice has just been received that Australian Patent Number 752784 has been issued for the Lite Vent Deflation System. Patents have also been applied for in other countries of interest.

*“The lite Vent is yet another giant leap forwards in deflation system design that started here at Kavanagh Balloons back in 1994 with the Smart Vent. As the size of balloons has increased we have strived to improve their control response making them easier to fly and land. The Lite Vent has enabled pilots in tight flying areas to fly and land bigger balloons with more ease and safety than ever before.”* said Phil Kavanagh.

The Lite Vent is the successor to the Smart Vent and includes several major improvements for large balloons. Among these are incredibly easy and effective in flight venting as well as a fast acting center pull for final deflation.

The Lite Vent, like its little brother the Smart Vent is resealable at any time but in another step forward for deflation system technology, the Lite Vent can also be held in the closed position at any time. This is particularly helpful on inflation or even in severe turbulence while in flight.

So good is this closure system that some operators do not even bother tabbing in the vent on their 350's and 400's.

The Lite Vent has been in operation since 1999 with big balloon operators from Australia to the Masai Mara in Kenya enjoying the benefits of this revolutionary system.

The Lite Vent is standard in all balloons from 120,000 cu.ft to 400,000 cu.ft with the Smart Vent still a no cost option up to 180,000 cu.ft. A special version of the Lite Vent is also used in our EX-65 Vertigo competition balloon to allow safe in flight venting at very high rates of climb.

Phil Kavanagh



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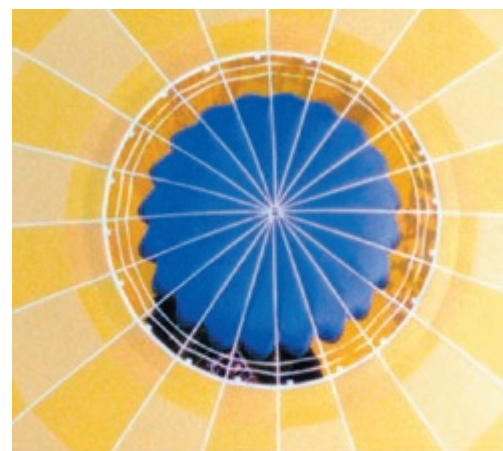
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Lite Vent in a B-350  
Center pull mode on final deflation



Lite Vent from above during in flight  
venting in an EX-65  
Photo: Adam Barrow