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FAI GENERAL AWARDS FOR 2026

THE FAI GOLD AIR MEDAL (STATUTES 10.2)

Eligibility. The Medal is reserved for those who have contributed greatly to the development of aeronautics by their activities, work, achievements, initiative or devotion to the cause of Aviation.

Don Cameron (GBR)

Don Cameron has exerted an exceptional and lasting influence on aviation for more than seven decades, with a particularly significant contribution to the development of ballooning through innovation, manufacturing, piloting and international service. Since founding Cameron Balloons in 1970, he has led the design and manufacture of more than 12,000 balloons, establishing the company as a leading global balloon manufacturer and contributing to the development of safe and accessible participation in ballooning worldwide. His most consequential technical contribution was developing modern the Roziere balloon, which combines gas and hot air technologies to enable long distance ballooning. This innovation provided the technology for the only successful non-stop circum-navigations of the globe by balloon, representing a significant achievement in aviation. Alongside his technical and manufacturing achievements, Don Cameron has provided sustained international service to ballooning for nearly four decades through the FAI Ballooning Commission (CIA), contributing to its governance, development and international standing. His influence extended across technical innovation, manufacturing, piloting, sporting administration and international cooperation. Now in his late eighties, he continues to be active and remains a significant figure in ballooning with a career distinguished by sustained technical innovation, long standing leadership and international influence. His work has contributed substantially to the advancement of ballooning and to its development as an internationally established air sport.

THE FAI GOLD SPACE MEDAL (STATUTES 10.3)

Eligibility. The FAI Gold Space Medal is reserved for those who have contributed greatly to development of Astronautics by their activities, work, achievements, initiative or devotion to the cause of Space.

Jared Issacman (USA)

Polaris Dawn made a historic contribution to human spaceflight through a mission that achieved multiple significant milestones in commercial space exploration. Launched by SpaceX on 10 September 2024 as the first mission of the Polaris Program, the crewed mission reached an altitude of approximately 1,400 kilometres, the highest Earth orbit reached by humans since the Apollo programme. The mission also achieved the first commercial spacewalk, with Jared Isaacman and Sarah Gillis exiting the Crew Dragon spacecraft while in orbit. During the mission, the crew conducted scientific research into the effects of space radiation and spaceflight on human health and wellbeing, contributing to a broader understanding of the challenges of extended human spaceflight. Polaris Dawn also tested Starlink laser-based communications technology in space, demonstrating the potential of advanced commercial communications systems for future missions. The mission was commanded by Jared Isaacman, with Scott Poteet serving as pilot and Sarah Gillis and Anna Menon as mission specialists. In addition to its technological and scientific achievements, Polaris Dawn continued a commitment to philanthropy by supporting St Jude Children's Research Hospital. Through its pioneering achievements, scientific contributions and advancement of commercial human spaceflight, Polaris Dawn demonstrated the potential of private missions to expand the boundaries of exploration and innovation.

THE FAI BRONZE MEDAL (STATUES 10.4)

Eligibility. The Medal is reserved for persons who have rendered eminent services to the FAI in administrative work, in Commissions, or in the organisation of FAI sporting events.

Not Awarded

The DE LA VAULX MEDAL (STATUTES 10.5)

Eligibility: De La Vaulx Medals are awarded to all holders of recognised absolute world records established during the previous year.

Not Awarded

THE LOUIS BLERIOT MEDAL (STATUES 10.6)

Eligibility: Blériot Medals are awarded to holders of the highest records for speed (i.e., Speed over a 3 Kilometre Course, Speed Over a 15 Kilometer Course, Speed Over a Closed Course), altitude and distance in a straight line established in the previous year by light aircraft of the first three sub-classes, as defined in Section 2 of the Sporting Code

Raphael Domjan (SUI)

Raphael Domjan established a World Record for altitude in the C-1b electric aeroplane category, reaching 9,640 metres on 12 August 2025.

Kevin R. Douglass (USA)

Kevin R. Douglass established a World Record for speed over a 15 kilometre course in the C-1a electric aeroplane category, achieving a speed of 117.59 km/h on 10 October 2025.

THE SABIHA GÖKCEN MEDAL (STATUTES 10.8)

Eligibility. The Medal is reserved for the woman who performs the most outstanding achievement in any FAI air sport activity in the previous year.

Jeana Billings (USA)

Jeana Billings has made historic contributions through her exceptional achievements. At the 2024 FAI World Championships of Formation Skydiving, she became the first woman to win gold medals in both the 4-Way Female and 8-Way Formation Skydiving events, a feat achieved by only one other individual in the history of the sport. Representing the United States, Jeana played a pivotal role in leading both national teams to world championship titles, demonstrating outstanding skill, versatility, focus and resilience. Beyond her competitive achievements, Jeana has made significant contributions to the wider skydiving community as a respected leader, coach and organiser. Alongside maintaining an elite training schedule, she supports major national and international competitions, including the U S Nationals, contributing her expertise, attention to detail and deep understanding of competitive skydiving to their successful delivery. Through her sporting excellence, leadership and commitment to the development of the discipline, she became a pioneer in formation skydiving. Her achievements, professionalism and sportsmanship have established her as a role model athletes inspire to be.

THE FAI SILVER MEDAL (STATUTES 10.9)

Eligibility. The Medal is reserved for persons who have occupied high office in FAI or in an aeronautical organisation in one of its member countries, and in the discharge of their duties have shown exceptional powers of leadership and influence, to the benefit of the whole international air sport community.

Not Awarded

THE DIPLOMA FOR OUTSTANDING AIRMANSHIP (STATUTES 10.10)

Eligibility. It shall be awarded to a person or a group of persons for a feat of outstanding airmanship in sub-orbital flight during one of the previous two years which resulted in the saving of life of others or was carried out with that objective.

Not Awarded

THE PAUL TISSANDIER DIPLOMA (STATUTES 10.11)

Eligibility. It may be awarded to individual persons only who have served the cause of aviation in general and sporting aviation in particular, by their work, initiative, devotion or in other ways.

Raymond Pearson (AUS)

Raymond Pearson has made a longstanding contribution to sport aviation in Australia through his involvement with the Australian Aerobatic Club of Australia and Air Sport Australia Confederation. Over many years, he has contributed to initiatives supporting the development of sport aviation and has undertaken organisational and administrative responsibilities within the Australian air sports community. His work has included specific initiatives that have supported the development of aerobatics and sport aviation in Australia, as well as tasks contributing to the organisation and advancement of the sport. Through his sustained involvement, initiative and service, Raymond Pearson has contributed to the development of Australian sport aviation.

Gerard Werion (BEL)

Gerard Werion has made a longstanding contribution to radio-controlled aerobatics in Belgium. In 2000, he became president of the Association Aeromodeliste du Sud Hainaut and has since contributed to the organisation and development of the club and its activities. He played an important role in organising the European Championships for radio-controlled aerobatics in 2018 and 2024. As a radio-controlled aerobatic pilot with decades of experience, he has frequently represented Belgium at FAI Category 1 F3A World and Continental Championships and has served as team leader for Belgium on several occasions. Together with members of his club, he has continued the tradition of organising the F3A International Criterium, an FAI Category 2 competition. The 2026 edition represents the 31st edition of the event. His activities have supported competition, athlete participation and the continued development of radio-controlled aerobatics in Belgium.

Stefan Stefanov (BUL)

Stefan Stefanov has made a longstanding contribution to parachuting as a competitor, coach and international judge. Between 1975 and 1995, he won more than 100 medals and achieved multiple national championship titles. In 1992, he became World Champion at the CISM Games and runner-up at the World Parachuting Championsihps. He has served as a coach of the Bulgarian national team and the Bulgarian junior team, as well as the Syrian national skydiving team. He remains active as a coach

and international skydiving judge. Across a career spanning seven decades and more than 10,000 parachute jumps, Stefan Stefanov has contributed to competitive parachuting, athlete development and international judging.

Eneas Grisolia Corbaton (CHI)

Eneas Grisolia Corbaton has contributed to civil and sport aviation in Chile for more than 60 years through operational, institutional and international activities. He served four terms as President of the San Felipe Flying Club, where he modernised facilities with municipal support. As President of the Federacion Aerea de Chile in 1988, he promoted cooperation among clubs, advancing institutional initiatives. In 1991, he founded the first National Civil Aviation Meeting, ENACI, and promoted the FEDACH Pilots Manual as training resource. He served as Vice President for Chile of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale and participated in its Expansion Committee. He organised the 1993 World Air Rally Championship and represented Chile in international aviation forums including ICAO and COSAC. Licensed as a pilot in 1960, he continues to contribute to aviation through his work with Club Aereo Adolfo Menadier, Aguilas Blancas and the Chilean Institute for Historical Aeronautical Research.

Jiri Stepanek (CZE)

Jiri Stepanek started his journey in Lanskroun. After primary school, he trained as a mechanical fitter and continued his studies at the secondary technical school in Rychnov nad Knezno. He subsequently studied at Brno University of Technology and became a mechanical design engineer. His aviation career began in 1971 when a pilot in Moravska Trebova offered a flight and introduced him to the airfield. In spring 1972 he began elementary glider training on the L 13 Blanik and became immediately captivated by gliding. In 1975 he completed his first three cross country flights and took part in his first junior championship in Pribram. Through his talent, dedication and enthusiasm he earned the opportunity to fly and care for the M 35 glider. Jiri has competed in gliding since 1975 and continues to compete to this day. He was a member of the national team from 1979 to 2000.

Josef Rydl (CZE)

Josef Rydl began glider training in 1957, completed his first solo flight in 1958 and became an instructor in 1962. He subsequently became a leading figure in Czechoslovak gliding, winning the national championships in Vrchlabi in 1968 and 1972, completing major cross-country flights, earning the Gold C with three Diamonds, setting national records and receiving the title Master of Sport. Alongside gliding, he flew powered aircraft and helicopters as a professional pilot, instructor, inspector and test pilot. He worked for Slov-air, SLI and Heli services and gained an IFR rating. On 5 July 2009, he established a world record in a Robinson R44 over a 500 km closed circuit at a speed of 194.8 km/h. He continued long distance glider flying and competition in later years. His total flight experience includes 12,985 hours, comprising 4,532 hours in gliding, 2,115 in powered aircraft, 6,035 in helicopters and 303 in ultralight aircraft.

Jose Manuel Sanchez Garcia (ESP)

Jose Manuel Sanchez Garcia, known as Juaki, has contributed to the development of hang gliding in Spain since beginning to fly in 1984. He has served as President of the National Hang Gliding Commission of the Royal Spanish Aeronautical Federation for 18 years, as a member of the NAC Executive Board and as CIVL Alternate Delegate since 2018. His principal contribution has been the organisation of hang gliding events throughout Spain for more than 20 years, including national leagues, open events and Spanish Championships. Many of these events have received FAI Category 2 sanctioning, enabling pilots from around the world to participate in competitions in Spain. In 2025, he directed the organisation of the FAI World Hang Gliding Championships in Ager. Through his organisational, administrative and sporting activities, he has contributed to the development of hang gliding in Spain and to its international competition programme.

Bernhard Schwendemann (GER)

Bernhard Schwendemann began free flight activities in 1964 and has since contributed to free flight and aeromodelling through competition, administration, judging, publishing and event organisation. From 1981, he served as volunteer publisher and editor in chief of THERMIKSENSE, publishing quarterly for roughly 400 subscribers in 25 countries. From 1998 to 2011, he served as spokesperson for aeromodellers in the DAeC and contributed to the sports recognition of model aircraft flying by the German Sports Federation. He served on the Board of the DAeC Aeromodelling Commission from 2002 to 2011 and has been a member of the CIAM F1 Free Flight Subcommittee since 2011. From 2016, he chaired the DAeC Free Flight Committee and has served as FAI Jury Member at six World and European Championships in F1ABC and F1E. He also competed in F1B World Cups, became German Champion of F1B in 2019 and organised more than 150 regional free flight competitions.

Gyorgy Istvan Toth (HUN)

Gyorgy Istvan Toth began his aviation career in 1964 and remains active as a glider pilot, competitor and instructor. He holds experience across microlight aircraft, gliders, SEP and MEP aeroplanes and the Airbus A320 family. He obtained his Glider Pilot Licence at 18 and qualified as gliding instructor at 21. He pursued a professional airline career, including senior management positions as Deputy Chief Pilot of the Hungarian national airline and Head of Training and ATO Manager of a major European low-cost carrier. He continues to serve as a Senior Examiner and Senior TRI and TRE. He contributed to pilot training and instruction across microlight, general aviation and gliding operations. He is involved in developing new glider instructor training curriculum and modern methodology. He accumulated more than 28,000 flight hours and trained hundreds of pilots, contributing to several generations of aviators.

Gurpreet Dhindsa (IND)

Gurpreet Dhindsa has contributed to Indian paragliding for more than three decades as a competition pilot and through governance, training and safety. He developed India’s national paragliding rating system in line with FAI standards, enabling India to issue IPPI licences and contributed to standardising pilot training. As the Aero Club of Indias National Commissioner for Paragliding and ACI delegate to the FAI Paragliding Commission CIVL, he contributed to regulatory framework. Through ATOAI and the Ministry of Tourism, he helped establish minimum safety standards for paragliding and hang gliding and develop the sport in Uttarakhand as President of its state association. He was the number one Indian pilot from 2009 to 2018 and became the first to reach international podium in 2009 when he won the Open Kazakhstan Championship. Since 1996, he has coordinated high altitude search and rescue with the Indian Air Force and trained elite armed forces and BSF units through PG Gurukul.

Margherita Acquaderni (ITA)

Margherita Acquaderni is an Italian glider pilot, multiple time champion and holder of numerous national and international records. Over her competitive career, she has participated in World Championships and has led the Italian national team. Alongside her sporting achievements, she has contributed to the development of women in aviation through international roles and dedicated events. Her professional career as an English teacher over 35 years has been combined with sustained involvement in gliding and international air sports. Through her competition achievements, team leadership and activities supporting women's participation in aviation, she has contributed to the development of gliding.

Mario Cotti (ITA)

Mario Cotti is an Italian pilot, aerobatic and glider towing instructor, aircraft owner and aviation enthusiast specialising in historic and aerobatic aircraft. He served as President of the Aeroclub Gaspare Bolla and has participated in numerous airshows and aerial rally competitions. His activities have included the operation and promotion of historic and aerobatic aircraft and the organisation and participation in aviation events. He has also been recognised as a Pioneer of Flight by the Aeronautica Militare Italiana. Through his flying, instructional, organisational and historical aviation activities, Mario Cotti has contributed to the preservation and promotion of aviation in Italy.

Miyako Kanao (JPN)

As President of the Japan Women's Aviation Association, Miyako Kanao has contributed to the development and education of female pilots and to increasing participation and diversity within aviation. In aerobatics, she has contributed over many years to improving training environments and developing athletes, supporting the growth and development of domestic competitions. As an FAI certified International Judge, she has officiated at FAI World Championships and contributed to Japan's participation and representation on the international stage. Through her activities in pilot education, athlete development, competition judging and organisational leadership, she has contributed to the development of air sports in Japan.

Motomi Soma (JPN)

Since the 1970s, Motomi Soma has contributed to aviation by acquiring various aviation licences and developing safe flying environments, including the establishment of an airfield in Nasushiobara City, Tochigi. In the late 1990s, he organised the microlight community in the Kanto region and worked with other flying clubs to establish the Japan Microlight Aeronautic League. He also contributed to its incorporation as a Non-Profit Organisation in 1999 and its recognition as the national governing body. From 2014 to 2018, he was involved in organising the Japan Microlight Championships, contributing to the safe and successful operation of the events. He has also served for many years as an instructor at safety training programmes, supporting the development of air sports and pilot safety.

Sung Yug Kim (KOR)

Sung Yug Kim began participating in model aircraft building and radio-controlled aircraft through a university model aircraft club in 1983, where he served as president, mentored junior students and participated in competitions. He has been a member of the Korean Aero Model Association since 1994 and has been involved in UAV research and development and flight testing for 30 years. From 2002 to 2015, he served as an F3A judge at competitions hosted by or associated with KAMA. He also participates in the annual KAMA Instructor Pilot Conference, contributing to the development of F3A and safety in model aviation sports. Through competition, judging, research and development, flight testing and instructor activities, he has contributed to the development of model aviation in Korea.

Karlis Plocins (LAT)

Karlis Plocins has contributed to the development of air sports structures in Latvia since the restoration of independence in 1990. He played a key role in rebuilding and developing Latvian air sports structures and contributed to the continuity and institutional development of the Latvian Aeroclub and its integration within the FAI system. He has been involved in the governance and coordination including representation in national sport federations and cooperation between different aviation sport disciplines. He also contributed to Latvia's participation in international aviation sport structures. Alongside this organisational work, he has supported aeromodelling education and youth training as an instructor and mentor at the Riga Young Technicians Centre. From 2006 to 2018, he served as an inspector at the Civil Aviation Agency of Latvia, contributing to oversight and safety in general aviation operations.

Robert Thillens (LUX)

Robert Thillens has supported the development of air sports in Luxembourg throughout his professional career in sports administration. Born in 1957, he pursued a career in sports after studying physical education, initially working as a sports professor at the Ministry of Education and later serving as Sports Commissioner at the Ministry of Sports from 2012. He retired in 2020 as first adviser to the minister. During his career in sports administration, he contributed to a more structured and strategic approach to the management of the sports movement in Luxembourg. He also supported the Luxembourg air sports community and ensured that air sports received attention and support alongside other sports. Through his administrative responsibilities and continued support for the national air sports community, he contributed to the development of air sports in Luxembourg.

Gjorgi Chachkirov (MKD)

Gjorgi Chachkirov has contributed to North Macedonian aviation for more than six decades. He served as Secretary General of the former Aeronautical Federation of Macedonia from 1980 to 1995 and has worked as a professional pilot, instructor and aviation manager in civil and sports aviation. He obtained his glider pilot licence, Private Pilot Licence in 1971, Commercial Pilot Licence in 1983. In 1989 and 1990, he served as coach and selector of the former Yugoslav national team at the World Rally Flying Championship and Balkan Aeronautical Championship, where they achieved first overall. From 1985 to 1998, he managed four major air shows in the former Yugoslavia. He contributed to establishing the Civil Aviation Agency of North Macedonia and was among the founders of Palair Macedonia, serving as Director of Flight Operations from 1993 to 1996. His career has also included contributions to aviation education, management, publishing and heritage preservation.

Ann Johnson (NZL)

Ann Johnson was a leading female glider pilot in New Zealand during the late 1960s and early 1970s and became the first woman in New Zealand to gain a Diamond Height award. During her active gliding years, flying a Ka6CR and later an ASW 15, she established 21 New Zealand female gliding records. In 1972, she achieved a height gain of 8,336 metres and an absolute altitude of 8,666 metres, with these records remaining in place for more than a decade. In 1979, she completed a declared goal distance flight of 246 km across challenging terrain using a basic road map for navigation, establishing a record that still stands. She also contributed to the organisation of national and regional gliding championships, including coordinating retrieves for pilots landing away from their planned destinations. Throughout her involvement in gliding, she supported youth and women members and contributed to pilot development through mentoring and practical guidance.

Sue Walsh (NZL)

Sue Walsh has contributed to New Zealand skydiving through safety, competition, judging, training and organisational development. In 2022, she participated in the female sequential record, a two-point 10 way achieved over Taupo. She established the NZ Crest system, adapted from Australia, to identify skydiver skill levels across disciplines and group sizes. The system was later formalised under the NZPIA and incorporated into licences. She also developed advanced coach ratings to recognise individuals qualified to train others. Working with NZPF judges, she contributed to the creation of a New Zealand Sporting Code, re-establishing a national framework for judging and competitions. She contributed to the unification of the NZPF and NZPIA under New Zealand Skydiving. She also supported the continuation of Freefall Nationals and led the first official Canopy Piloting Nationals in New Zealand. Since becoming Treasurer in 2018 and President in 2019, she has also supported judge development and initiatives including Project Elev8, the NZPF League, FS training camps and Magicland events.

Sebastian Kawa (POL)

Sebastian Kawa is recognised worldwide as one of the greatest glider pilots of all time and an exceptional representative of international air sports. Throughout his career, he has achieved an unparalleled record of victories in FAI World and European Gliding Championships, setting a benchmark for excellence, precision and consistency in competitive soaring. His contribution extends beyond sporting success through educational initiatives, international cooperation, lectures, publications and inspirational expedition flights. His pioneering mountain soaring projects in demanding regions including the Himalayas, Andes and historic K2 area have demonstrated extraordinary airmanship and significantly advanced public understanding of modern gliding capabilities. Respected for his achievements, humility, professionalism and dedication to mentoring younger pilots, he has become a highly respected figure in the global aviation community. His lifelong commitment to developing and promoting air sports reflects devotion to aviation, international cooperation and outstanding service to the aeronautical world, inspiring pilots across generations and borders.

Ljubisa Naumovic (SRB)

Ljubisa Naumovic has been involved in parachuting for more than 55 years as a parachutist, instructor and professional pilot. He made his first parachute jump in 1970 and has completed more than 6,210 jumps, alongside 8,500 aeroplane flights and 2,250 flight hours. He was among the first people in Serbia to perform a tandem skydive with a passenger and has been a member and champion of the former Yugoslav national team across parachuting disciplines. He has organised numerous state and republic championships and has received recognition for his achievements in Serbian parachuting and sport. Together with his wife, Svetlana Cica Simic, he continues to support the operation of the aeroclub Nasa Krila. He contributes to training new generations of parachutists and pilots and is involved in parachute production, maintenance and servicing through his company SKY. He has also developed training methods for parachutists and continues to apply them through his instructional activities.

Albert Zeller (SUI)

Albert Zeller has contributed to the preservation, restoration and promotion of historic aviation, with a particular focus on Bucker aircraft. After developing an interest in aircraft modelling during his youth, he completed his theory and practical flight test on a Piper L 4 and subsequently flew a Bucker Jungmann. In 1983, he founded Appair AG, Appenzeller Air AG, and restored the non airworthy Bucker HB UVE. He subsequently acquired and restored numerous Bucker aircraft and researched the history of the Bucker aircraft factory in Rangsdorf near Berlin. Together with his wife, he developed a museum on his company property, which opened in 2021 and houses numerous exhibits documenting the history of Bucker aircraft construction. He continues to restore aircraft including Bucker and Klemm 35 aircraft. His technical knowledge, restoration work and museum activities have contributed to preserving an important part of Swiss and European aviation heritage.

Bernhard Luthi (SUI)

Bernhard Luthi began flying in 1973 with a glider licence and later added powered flight and glacier flying. After acquiring his own glider, he organised, financed and led glider camps at Saanen Gstaad airfield for more than 20 years, supporting the development of younger pilots. He also acquired a Piper L4 equipped with skis and obtained glacier flying certification, completing numerous glacier landings. For more than 20 years, he served as a mentor through the Swiss Sports Aid Foundation, supporting young glider pilots with financial assistance for training and further education. He later supported athletes and suitable participants in skydiving and powered flight through mentoring and financial support. As an active member of the AeCS Gliding Commission, he contributed to the development of gliding in Switzerland. During the 1990s, he also contributed to the development of the Swiss Aero Club into regional and divisional associations. He continues to fly his Piper L4.

Michel Barras (SUI)

Michel Barras has contributed to Swiss aviation through operational, regulatory, instructional and safety activities. He began his aviation career in the 1960s by contributing to the construction of Gruyere aerodrome and later obtained his glider pilot licence. At the Federal Office of Civil Aviation, he served as operations manager for non-motorised air traffic, including gliders, paragliders and balloons, contributing to the safety and development of these activities. As an expert and instructor for motorised aircraft, including mountain training, and gliders, he has trained numerous pilots and shared his operational expertise. He continues to train tow pilots and glider pilots at the GVVG. He has also supported efforts to enable paraplegic pilots to fly aeroplanes, contributing to greater accessibility within aviation. Through his regulatory, instructional and operational activities, Michel Barras has made a longstanding contribution to general and non-motorised aviation in Switzerland.

Ingemar Larsson (SWE)

Ingemar Larsson of Vanersborg Model Flying Club has contributed to control line flying in Sweden and internationally through competition, judging and event organisation. Over many years, he has participated as a competitor, served as an international judge and supported the organisation of control line events. His activities have contributed to the development of Swedish control line flying and to cooperation within the international control line community.

Peter Dorbell (SWE)

Peter Dorbell has contributed to Swedish gliding through club leadership, pilot training, national education and glider aerobatics. For decades, he has played a central role in the development of Boras Gliding Club, where he continues to serve as a board member and Head of Gliding. Since the 1970s, he has worked as an instructor and has trained more than 300 glider pilots. As Head of Training for the Swedish Gliding Federation, he contributes to national training standards and education. He has also contributed to establishing and developing glider aerobatics in Sweden as an instructor and organiser and remains involved in national championships. Through these activities, he has supported pilot development, competition and the continued development of gliding in Sweden.

Yuriy Yakovlyev (UKR)

Yuriy Yakovlyev has contributed to microlight flying, pilot training and the development of aviation sport in Ukraine since 1993. He competed in World and European Microlight Championships in two seat Aeroprakt A 20, A 30 and A 40 aircraft and has won 17 FAI medals, including seven gold medals. He won prizes in national ultralight championships and contributed to organisations. In 2018, he established two world records in the RAL2T class with his daughter Anna, and in 2019 established a world fuel efficiency record in C 1a class. Since 2008, he has contributed to protecting the interests of private pilots and aviation athletes in Ukraine, including supporting changes to flight planning, airspace, licensing, international flight permissions and Permit To Fly procedures. He has served on the Presidium of the Federation of Aeronautical Sports of Ukraine for 25 years, including 20 years as Vice President, and President in 2025. He also trained several dozen aspiring pilots as a flight instructor.

Glenn Edward Pearson (USA)

Glenn Edward Pearson began space modelling in 1957 and made his national competitive debut at NARAM 6 at NASAs Wallops Island in 1964. For more than 50 years, he has contributed through competition, event organisation, public engagement and support for young participants. From 1966 to 1976, he supported launches at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Visitor Center for scout groups and public events. In 1976, he established regular public launches there, held twice monthly for 25 years. His FAI activities include serving as official US timer at the inaugural World Space Modelling Championship in Yugoslavia in 1972, Chief Field Judge at the 1980 Championship in Lakehurst, New Jersey, co-organiser of the 1988 US USSR meet at Wallops Island, FAI judge at the 1991 reciprocal meet in Kaluga, Russia, and range logistics manager at the 1992 Championship in Florida. Since 2009, he has served as an FAI Jury Member at numerous North American Cups and World Championships.

THE FAI GROUP DIPLOMA OF HONOUR (STATUTES 10.13)

Eligibility. An FAI Group Diploma of Honour may be awarded to a group (design offices, scientific bodies, aeronautical publications, etc.) that has contributed significantly to the progress of Aeronautics or Astronautics during the previous year or years.

Club Centro De Vuelo Pegalajar (ESP)

Club Centro de Vuelo Pegalajar has contributed to the development of paragliding in Spain and to the establishment of Pegalajar as an international free flight destination. Founded in 1990, the club identified Siete Pillillas as a suitable flying area due to its orientation, stable thermals, accessibility and views over the Guadalquivir River valley. From the late 1990s, it established headquarters and began organising pilot gatherings and the Memorial Antonio Barron, which developed into larger competitions. With support from the Pegalajar City Council and the Government of the Province of Jaen, the area developed into an important free flight site in Spain. For more than 20 years, the club organised regional events, National Leagues, five Spanish Championships, pre World Cups and FAI Category 2 events. It organised Paragliding World Cup and FAI European Paragliding Championship in 2023 and the World Cup Superfinal in 2026 held in Spain for the first time. The club has also supported the promotion and training of new generations of pilots through the activities of its members, volunteers and organisers.

TALOS Aeroclub of Heraklion (GRE)

Founded in 2006, TALOS Aeroclub of Heraklion has contributed to the development of gliding and three axis ultralight aviation in Crete. In 2007, it established the islands first gliding section with two gliders and a launching winch. Its introduced the first three axis ultralight aircraft to Crete and established the islands first ultralight pilot school. The club has organised and hosted national and international air sports activities, mainly at Tympaki Airport, including four Greek Phaistos Cups for ultralight aircraft, one for paramotors and one for General Aviation. It has also hosted Panhellenic competitions in General Aviation, ultralight aircraft and paramotoring, and seven fly in events. In aeromodelling, it has supported the F1N FAI category and co organised national competitions with the Hellenic Aerosports Federation. Its athletes have achieved national competition and Greek Cup results, including second and third place in the three axis Ultralight Aircraft category at the 2025 Balkan Air Games. Through its sporting, organisational and training activities, TALOS Aeroclub has contributed to air sports in Crete and Greece.

Avio S.P.A. (ITA)

Avio S.P.A. has contributed to the development of space transportation and propulsion systems for over 50 years. The company designs, develops and manufactures space launchers and solid, liquid and cryogenic propulsion systems and operates across the propulsion value chain. Avio serves as prime contractor for the Vega programme and as subcontractor for the Ariane programme, both funded by the European Space Agency. It contributed to European and Italian capabilities in autonomous access and development of space launch vehicles. Its work in solid propulsion and cryogenic technologies supports current European launch programmes and the development of technologies for future space architectures. Through launch systems, propulsion and space transportation, Avio has contributed to European space capabilities and the development of advanced technologies for access to space.

ANBO Aerobatic Group (LTU)

Established in Lithuania in 2010, the ANBO Aerobatic Team has made outstanding contributions to international aerobatics, aviation heritage preservation and the promotion of FAI ideals through aerial sport and public displays. Comprising Rolandas Paksas, Robertas Noreika and Algimantas Zentelis, the team performs precision formation aerobatics in restored historic Yakovlev Yak 50 aircraft, combining high level performance with preservation of historical aviation traditions. Named in tribute to General Antanas Gustaitis and the legendary Lithuanian ANBO aircraft series, the team has promoted Lithuanian and European aviation heritage at events across Europe and Asia since its first overseas appearance in Seoul in 2011. Over fifteen years, it has demonstrated exceptional precision, discipline, mutual trust and safe operations, while pioneering twilight and night displays using light and pyrotechnic effects. Its members have also contributed to pilot training, aerobatic sport, event organisation and historic aircraft preservation, inspiring audiences and promoting aviation excellence internationally.

Airspace Management Cell SMATSA (SRB)

The Airspace Management Cell of SMATSA contributes to the coordination and allocation of airspace for civil, sports and military aviation activities in Serbia and Montenegro. Its work includes the daily implementation of airspace allocation procedures and the processing of requests from authorised airspace users. For aviation competitions held in Serbia, including domestic and international events, the Airspace Management Cell processes requests and issues the required airspace allocation and approvals. At the pre tactical level, the Airspace Management Cell processes requests from authorised entities, allocates airspace and distributes relevant information to interested users no later than one day before the start of an activity. Through these functions, the unit supports the coordination of aviation activities and the use of airspace by different civil, sports and military users.

Swiss FAI Indoor Model Flying Team (SUI)

The Swiss FAI Indoor Model Flying Team has contributed to the development of indoor aerobatics in Switzerland through competition, training, event organisation, pilot development and model aircraft construction. Over the years, members across Switzerland established local and international contacts, organised training and competitions, identified and supported new pilots and developed construction methods for increasingly precise and lightweight aerobatic models. The team established the Swiss Open Indoor Masters, recognising the value of international pilot and judge participation in developing skills, model aircraft design and public interest. The SOIM remains an established event in the Swiss indoor model flying calendar. Working with the Swiss Model Flying Association, the team has also supported the Swiss national team who participated in FAI F3P World Championships. This work contributed to the organisation and delivery of the 2025 FAI World Championships in Switzerland, bringing leading indoor pilots together and increasing public exposure to indoor model flying.

Blue Origin (USA)

Blue Origin has contributed to the development of commercial and reusable spaceflight through the development of launch vehicles, lunar systems, commercial space infrastructure and advanced propulsion technologies. Its New Shepard suborbital vehicle has supported commercial human spaceflight and microgravity research. The New Glenn launch vehicle was developed as reusable heavy lift system for access to Earth orbit and beyond. It is also developing the Orbital Reef commercial space station and the Blue Moon lunar lander as part of its activities supporting future human operations in low Earth orbit and on the lunar surface. Through Honeybee Robotics, Blue Origin is also involved in planetary sampling technologies, including systems developed for NASA's Dragonfly mission to Titan. Its work in advanced propulsion includes research into nuclear propulsion technologies. Through these activities across launch systems, planetary exploration, space habitats and propulsion, Blue Origin has contributed to the development of technologies supporting future human and robotic spaceflight.

Parachutist Magazine (USA)

First published in September 1957, Parachutist Magazine is the longest running print magazine in skydiving. Originally published by the Parachute Club of America, predecessor to the USPA, it has documented the evolution of civilian sport parachuting through safety initiatives, equipment technology and parachuting techniques. Today, Parachutist remains one of the few viable print publications available worldwide. Its average 84-page format features leading skydiving photography, event reports, information for instructors and rating holders, national and international competition coverage, incident reports and safety articles, frequently reproduced internationally. Parachutist has expanded through parachutist.com, providing regularly updated articles and a complete archive of issues dating from 1957. While embracing digital publishing, it continues to provide a tangible historical record of skydiving in print and makes its content accessible worldwide. Its development has been supported by generations of staff, board members, writers and contributors whose efforts sustained this important publication.

FAI AWARDS FOR INDIVIDUAL DISCIPLINES

AWARDS FOR BALLOONNING (BY LAWS 7.2)

THE MONTGOLFIER BALLOONING DIPLOMAS (BY LAWS 7.2.1)

Eligibility, Frequency and Number: Four Montgolfier Diplomas may be awarded annually, one to recognise each of the following:

the best sporting performance in the previous Montgolfier year in Gas Ballooning

Not Awarded

the best sporting performance in the previous Montgolfier year in Hot Air Ballooning

Not Awarded

the best sporting performance in the previous Montgolfier year in Roziere Ballooning

Not Awarded

a major contribution to the development of the sport of Ballooning in general

Giovanni Aimo (ITA)

After earning his aircraft pilot licence in 1966, Giovanni Aimo embraced ballooning in 1980 and dedicated his life to advancing the sport. He has accumulated over 11,350 flight hours in hot air balloons, gas balloons and hot air airships, completing 7,071 flights. As an instructor, he has trained around 300 students from across the world. His competitive achievements include seven Italian National Championships and 21 podium finishes, with participation in numerous European and World Championships, including the Gordon Bennett Race in 2013 and 2014. He has organised national competitions and the Pre WAG and WAG in Mondovi in 2008 and 2009. He founded Aeroclub Mongolfiere di Mondovi in 2005 and Mondovi Balloonport in 2006, both now key institutions for the sport. He holds major Italian distance and duration records. With the BBAC, he trained seven disabled students from the UK and instructed the first Italian disabled balloon pilot, a female police officer in a wheelchair pursuing her EASA licence. Through his vision, mentorship and advocacy, Giovanni Aimo has made a profound and lasting contribution to ballooning.

THE SANTOS-DUMONT GOLD AIRSHIP MEDAL (BY LAWS 7.2.2)

Eligibility, Frequency and Number: One Santos-Dumont Gold Airship Medal may be awarded annually to recognise:

- the best sporting performance in the previous Montgolfier year in airships,

or

- a major contribution to the development of the sport of Airship flying in general.

Not Awarded

THE HANS AKERSTEDT AWARD (BY LAWS 7.2.3)

Eligibility, Frequency and Number. The Hans Akerstedt Award shall be awarded to recognise the number and years of presence and participation in the FAI Ballooning commission meetings as follows:

- *The Gold award for a total number of 25 participations in the FAI Ballooning commission plenary meetings*
- *1 additional diamond for every following 10 participations.*

Not Awarded

AWARDS FOR GENERAL AVIATION (BY LAWS 7.3)

THE CHARLES LINDBERGH GENERAL AVIATION DIPLOMA (BY LAWS 7.3.1)

Eligibility: The Lindbergh Diploma may be awarded annually to:

- *individuals or organisations that have contributed significantly over a period of not less than ten years to the progress and success of General Aviation in either air sport or transportation, or in the work of international bodies concerned with General Aviation; or*
- *to recognise technical breakthroughs in the field of General Aviation as an incentive toward general progress, and for the purpose of stimulating research and development of new concepts and equipment contributing to operational efficiency and flight safety*.

Reinhard Ruck (GER)

For more than fifty years, Reinhard Ruck has rendered distinguished and sustained service to powered flight within General Aviation, nationally and internationally. As a multiple World Championship competitor and international judge, he has brought exemplary fairness, technical mastery and calm authority to the flightline and jury room. He has supported the full spectrum of motor flying events for decades, organising, mentoring and advising while helping ensure that competitions operate safely, to standard and in a spirit of sportsmanship. Through his guidance of officials and crews, commitment to clear rules and consistent application, and encouragement of young pilots, he has strengthened quality, safety and talent development. Colleagues recognise him as principled, reliable and generous with his time and expertise, exemplifying integrity in action. After stepping back from active duties for health reasons last year, his legacy remains evident in those he has coached, processes he has improved and trust he has earned. His longevity, impact and exemplary conduct represent a lifetime of effective, selfless leadership in motor flying and uphold the values recognised by the FAI General Aviation Commission Charles Lindbergh Diploma.

AWARDS FOR GLIDING (BY LAWS 7.4)

THE LILIENTHAL GLIDING MEDAL (BY LAWS 7.4.1)

Eligibility: It may be awarded for a particularly remarkable gliding performance, or eminent services to gliding, to a currently active glider pilot who has:

- *established an international record during the past year; or*
- *made a pioneer flight (defined as a flight which has opened new possibilities for gliding and/or gliding techniques); or*
- *rendered eminent service to the sport of gliding over a significant period of time*

Brian Spreckley (GBR)

Brian Spreckley has served for many years as a National development coach, supporting elite and developing pilots across the UK. He pioneered the Interclub League, bringing competition to less experienced pilots, and established and operated the European Soaring Club, encouraging pilots to travel abroad and safely experience leading sites across Europe. As an active competition pilot, he became a multiple National Champion and multiple World Gliding Championship podium medallist, culminating in becoming World Champion in the 15 metre Class in Australia. He continues to compete in Club Class in his Standard Libelle. As UK IGC delegate, he was recruited to the IGC Bureau and has served for more than 25 years as Vice President under five Presidents. He has also served repeatedly as a highly respected IGC steward and Juror. Brian has led important and lasting initiatives including the IGC ranking list, Assigned Area tasks and the creation and development of the SGP. Under his leadership and with continuing support from others, the SGP has reached its twentieth anniversary, strengthened sponsorship opportunities and showcased competition gliding at outstanding venues worldwide. His contribution was fundamental to the creation and continuing success of the SGP.

THE PELAGIA MAJEWSKA GLIDING MEDAL (BY LAWS 7.4.2)

Eligibility: The Pelagia Majewska Medal may be awarded annually to a female glider pilot to reward:

- *a particularly remarkable performance in gliding during the past year, or*
- *eminent services to gliding over a long period of time.*

Sarah Arnold (USA)

From the age of 13, Sarah Arnold has demonstrated a lifelong passion for aviation, particularly gliding. In her twenties, she became the youngest owner and operator of a glider port in the USA, where she serves as a flight instructor, tow pilot, aircraft mechanic and designated pilot examiner. Her flight school has graduated over 220 glider pilots of all ages, and she has hosted numerous encampments and regional and national competitions at her airfield. In 2014, she drove the establishment of the Pan American Gliding Championships and organised and hosted the first FAI PAGC in 2015. As a pilot, she holds four US National Records and numerous state records across several glider classes. She has achieved podium finishes at three Women's World Gliding Championships, including becoming World Champion in the Standard Class in 2020. In 2024, she became the first woman to win gold in a senior multiclass World Gliding Championship, the 38th FAI WGC, in the 20 Metre Multi seat Class. Sarah is a member of the Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame, US Soaring Hall of Fame and National Soaring Museums American Women in Soaring Wall of Fame.

THE PIRAT GEHRIGER DIPLOMA (BY LAWS 7.4.3)

Eligibility: It may be awarded annually for eminent services to international gliding

Sebastian Chaumontet (FRA)

Sebastien Chaumontet has made exceptional contributions to gliding as the primary architect and coordinator of the Open Glider Network OGN, a transformative infrastructure for global gliding safety and promotion. He developed the internet backbone and server systems that enable real time tracking of thousands of aircraft worldwide. Through this volunteer led platform, he has enhanced flight safety through its innovative iConspicuity approach, supporting Search and Rescue operations and mid-air collision avoidance. His leadership was recognised with the 2019 EASA GA Safety Award. He has also helped modernise air sports through digital visualisation, making gliding accessible worldwide through high-quality 3D race broadcasts for FAI World Championships and Sailplane Grand Prix. As a pioneer of eSport gliding, he led infrastructure development and competition management for the first FAI Virtual Sailplane Grand Prix and official national championships. His work has connected virtual simulation with physical soaring, creating opportunities for youth engagement and digital innovation within the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale. Through his dedication and technical expertise, he has strengthened gliding safety, public engagement and international cooperation.

AWARDS FOR ROTORCRAFT (BY LAWS 7.5)

THE FAI GOLD ROTORCRAFT MEDAL (BY LAWS 7.5.1)

Eligibility: The medal is to reward a particularly remarkable achievement in rotorcraft including use as a sporting vehicle, or eminent services to the development of rotorcraft over an extended period of time.

Hubert Gesang (GER)

Hubert Gesang has contributed to helicopter aviation through military, civil, rescue, training and international helicopter sport activities. Since beginning helicopter flying at the German Army Aviation School in Bueckeburg in 1978, he has accumulated more than 8,500 flight hours as pilot in command on more than ten helicopter types and more than 7,200 hours on aeroplanes, including more than 3,800 hours as a jet captain. As a rescue helicopter pilot, he has flown more than 6,600 operational missions, including mountain rescue with winch and HEC operations, and contributed to the establishment of HEMS bases. He has participated in more than 50 national and international helicopter sport events as a competitor, judge, organiser, championship director, jury member and observer. He served as Team Captain of the German National Helicopter Team from 2007 to 2012 and achieved podium results in Helicopter Freestyle at the World Helicopter Championships in Rouen in 2005 and Eisenach in 2008. He organised the FAI Rotorcraft Centenary Flight in 2005 and international group flights to FAI World Championships. Within FAI CIG, he has served as Delegate of Germany since 2019, Secretary since 2021 and First Vice President since 2023, being re-elected in 2025.

AWARDS FOR PARACHUTING (BY LAWS 7.6)

THE FAI GOLD PARACHUTING MEDAL (BY LAWS 7.6.1)

Eligibility: The Medal may be awarded annually for an outstanding accomplishment in connection with parachuting. This may be in the realm of sport, safety, or, at the option of the Commission, an invention. It cannot be awarded to delegates to the FAI Parachuting Commission.

Bill Morrissey (USA)

Bill Morrissey, D-516, profoundly shaped modern parachuting through pioneering achievements in safety, instruction and operational standards, particularly as a key figure in developing and implementing tandem skydiving. As a co-architect of the tandem skydiving system in the early 1980s, he helped establish training, operational and safety protocols that remain in use today. His leadership helped develop tandem skydiving from a bold concept into a globally accepted and regulated practice, enabling millions of first-time jumpers to experience freefall under trained instructors and broadening participation in the sport. His technical contributions helped make skydiving more accessible, safer and more sustainable as a recreational and competitive discipline. Morrissey was also a prolific educator and advocate whose work on instructional methodology and safety standards helped shape foundational policies of the United States Parachute Association and influenced best practices worldwide. As a member of the International Skydiving Hall of Fame, his dedication to safety and accessibility continues to benefit generations of skydivers, and his lasting contributions to the sport are recognised through this posthumous honour.

THE LEONARDO DA VINCI PARACHUTING DIPLOMA (BY LAWS 7.6.2)

Eligibility: One Diploma may be awarded each year to a person who has achieved one of the following criteria: Been at least twice an Individual Champion or a Member of a Champion Team at a First Category Event

- *Established at least three World Parachuting Records;*
- *Have been at least three times an FAI/IPC Official at a First Category Event (Chief Judge, FAI Parachuting Judge, FAI Controller, International Jury Member or any combination thereof)*
- *Have been at least three times a Competition Director at a First Category Event*
- *Have been for at least six years the Chair of an IPC Committee (IPC Internal Regulations 6.7) or an IPC Bureau Member or any combination thereof*.

Jiri Blaska (CZE)

In 1988, Jiri Blaska graduated from the Faculty of Physical Education in Prague. From 1988 to 1990, he served as a conscripted soldier with the DUKLA Team and later became a coach. From 2002 to 2006, he was commander of the DUKLA Parachuting Sports Team in Prostejov, during which its athletes won 20 medals at World and European Championships. In 2007 and 2008, he worked as a coach in the UAE and later coached the Danish national parachuting team. From 2011 to 2022, he served as a Parachuting Inspector at the Institute of Civil Aviation, contributing to instructor training and the development of regulations, standards and rules for Czech parachuting. For nearly two decades, he represented the Czech National Aeroclub as an ISC delegate or alternate delegate and served the ISC as a jury member in 2005 and 2016 and as an FAI Controller in 2013. With more than 5000 jumps, he has demonstrated exceptional leadership and sustained commitment to advancing parachuting nationally and internationally.

Kirk Verner (USA)

Kirk Verner has made a distinguished contribution to skydiving through three decades of competitive excellence, leadership and innovation in formation skydiving. For 32 years, he has helped advance the sport while enabling generations of skydivers to develop safely and reach higher levels of performance. He served as the US delegate to the International Parachuting Commission for nine years, representing the sport internationally. His competitive achievements include gold medals at FAI First Category Events in 4 Way in 1995 and 1997 and 8 Way in 1999, 2004 and from 2021 to 2024, competing with Arizona Airspeed and Paraclete XP8. He has also established multiple world records in large formation skydiving. As an inductee of the International Skydiving Museum and Hall of Fame, he is recognised for his mentorship and leadership, which have strengthened team dynamics and performance. As Manager of Skydive Paraclete XP, he continues to support the development of talent and innovation at a world class training facility.

FAUST VRANCIC MEDAL (BY LAWS 7.6.3)

Eligibility: The Medal may be awarded, on the decision of the FAI Parachuting Commission, for technical innovation or achievement in parachuting. It cannot be awarded to Delegates to the FAI Parachuting Commission.

Jan Sturc (CZE)

Jan Sturc joined the Military Technical Institute of Aviation in 1986 and has since contributed to the testing and development of parachutes, parachute equipment and systems used in parachuting and airborne activities. His work has included emergency aircraft egress, testing procedures for parachute jumps from new aircraft types, review of parachute packing regulations and procedures, and expert evaluations. He progressed from trial parachutist to senior test parachutist and subsequently became Head of the Rescue Parachute Testing Facility authorised by the Civil Aviation Office and Head of the Testing Laboratory for Rescue Equipment and Parachute Technology ZL 1220. He has contributed to ground and jump testing of airborne, reserve, rescue, sport and tandem parachutes, as well as emergency packs and modular carriage systems. His work has also included testing parachuting equipment and associated systems for aircraft and airborne operations.

AWARDS FOR AEROMODELLING (BY LAWS 7.7)

THE FAI AEROMODELLING GOLD MEDAL (BY LAWS 7.7.1)

Eligibility: It may be awarded annually to an aeromodeller of an FAI Member for outstanding merit in organisation activities. The recipient shall have:

- *fulfilled at least twice the function of Competition Director or a similar function at World or Continental Championships ; or*
- *fulfilled at least three times the function of an FAI jury member at World or Continental Championships ; or*
- *fulfilled at least five times the function of a judge or a similar function at World or Continental Championships ; or*
- *served at least three years as a delegate to the FAI Aeromodelling Commission, or served another function therein; or*
- *shown outstanding merits in developing aeromodelling by organizational activities.*

Bruno Delor (FRA)

Bruno Delor has contributed to aeromodelling through leadership, governance and international sporting service for more than three decades. He served on the Steering Committee of the French Aeromodelling Federation from 1993 to 2024 and was its President from 2005 to 2017. He has represented France as CIAM Delegate since 2004, served as FAI Vice President since 2009, CIAM First Vice President since 2014 and Chairman of the CIAM F9 Drone Sports Subcommittee since 2016. He contributed to the development of international drone racing, including the first FAI World Drone Racing Championship, and to the introduction of Drone Soccer within FAI, resulting in the inaugural FAI World Drone Soccer Championship in 2025. He served as Competition Director at the 2022 and 2025 World Games, as an FAI Jury Member at World Championships in 2017, 2023 and 2025, and as a judge at World and European Championships. His activities have contributed to the development of aeromodelling and emerging air sports disciplines within FAI.

THE ANDREI TUPOLEV AEROMODELLING MEDAL (BY LAWS 7.7.2)

Eligibility: It may be awarded to any aeromodeller who in the same year wins the World and National Aeromodelling Championships in the same class of models.

Not Awarded

THE ALPHONSE PENAUD AEROMODELLING DIPLOMA (BY LAWS 7.7.3)

Eligibility: The Diploma may be awarded to an aeromodeller of a FAI Member who has:

- *obtained at least three times consecutively the title of national champion; or*
- *obtained at least once the title of world champion; or*
- *established at least three world records; or*
- *other outstanding sporting achievements*

Yuki Hashimoto (JPN)

Yuki Hashimoto has achieved international results in Drone Racing. On 14 and 15 December 2024, he won first place at the Japan National Drone Racing Championship in Saitama, Japan. He subsequently competed at the FAI World Drone Racing Championship in China from 31 October to 3 November 2024. In 2025, he won first place in the Drone Racing event at The World Games in Chengdu, China, held from 13 to 16 August. These results include national, FAI World Championship and World Games competition achievements.

THE ANTONOV AEROMODELLING DIPLOMA (BY LAWS 7.7.4)

Eligibility: This Diploma may be awarded to an aeromodeller of an FAI Member for technical innovations in aeromodelling. The Antonov Diploma may be granted more than once to the same person for different

Mihailo Petrovic (SRB)

Mihailo Petrovic has contributed to aeromodelling and space modelling as a competitor, aerospace engineer and designer of drones and autonomous systems. He has achieved medals at World and European Championships and World Cups in Altitude, Scale Altitude and Time Duration events, including the World Championship title in S9. His technical work includes improvements to altimeters through wireless data transmission, the development of altitude model designs using advanced second stage aerodynamics, and manufacturing techniques for lighter and higher performance fins. He also developed an army type staging system for scale models and electronic timers for parachute duration models designed for reliable operation in different weather conditions. These contributed to Serbian team results at European and World Championships including 2024 European Championship. As a member of the Duration Working Group, he contributed to model safety standards and integration of electronics into space modelling. His technical developments have been adopted internationally and have contributed to the safety, performance and technological development of the sport.

THE ANDREI TUPOLEV AEROMODELLING DIPLOMA (7.7.5)

Eligibility: It may be awarded annually to an aeromodeller of an FAI Member for an outstanding record performance in aeromodelling.

Zivan Josipovic (SRB)

Zivan Josipovic is a technician who has been involved in aero and space modelling since childhood. As a member and president of Aero Club Franjo Kluz Zemun, where generations of modellers have been developed, he has contributed to a club that organised the 1987 World Space Modelling Championships and many Belgrade Space Modelling World Cups. He became a leading space modeller, holding world records in S3A in Ljubljana in 2008 and S6B in Bucharest in 2001. He was Individual World Champion in S6A in 2000 and third in S3A in 2012, both in L.Mikulas. He was European Champion in S9A in Buzau in 2005 and S6A in Irig in 2009 and second in S5C in Kaspican in 2013. He won Space Modelling World Cup overall six times, achieved four second, and two third places alongside numerous national titles. He holds six Golden Eagle awards as Meritorious Athlete of Serbia. He managed the national Space Modelling team from 2006 to 2015, chaired the national commission from 2003 to 2005, and has served as an FAI Space Modelling Judge and a Scale Judge at European and World Championships.

THE FRANK EHLING DIPLOMA (BY LAWS 7.7.6)

Eligibility: The Diploma may be awarded annually for outstanding accomplishment, by an organisation or individual, in connection with the promotion of aviation through the use of flying models.

Miograd Pelagic (SVK)

Miodrag Pelagic has contributed to aeromodelling and space modelling as a competitor, designer, educator, official and mentor. He began building models in childhood and became a member of the first Yugoslav national space modelling team in 1966. In 1968, his club, ARAK Belgrade, became National Champion, and in 1975 he established three national records. Through work with aero clubs and elementary schools in Vojvodina, he introduced approximately 2,000 young space modellers and 200 teachers to the sport. He designed the first space model gyrocopter, recognised as Class S9A, and the seven motor Arrow rocket. He was awarded the FAI Antonov Diploma in 2011. After relocating to Slovakia in 1992, he continued competing and building scale models. He has served as an FAI Space Models Judge since the first World Championships in 1972 and has officiated at numerous European and World Championships. He also served as Team Manager and Coach of the Slovak Space Models Team in 2009 and 2010 and led an international space modeller education camp in Croatia in 2022.

THE CIAM LEGENDS MEDAL (BY LAWS 7.7.7)

Eligibility: *The medal is reserved for those who have, in the past, obtained at least three (3) times the title of FAI World Champion in any Aeromodelling or Space Models class. The World Champion title may be gained in different classes. This medal is for individuals only. Proposals may cover any period of time up to 31st December of the preceding year*.

Andreas Herrig (GER)

Claimed the F3B World Champion titles in 2011, 2013 and 2025.

Renata Pasik-Goryczka (POL)

Claimed the Female Space Models World Champion titles in S1B and S3A in 2021, and S1F and S7F in 2025.

Gica Constantinescu (ROU)

Claimed the Female Space Models World Champion titles in S4A, S6A and S9A in 2021, and S1B in 2023.

Marian Gres (SVK)

Claimed the World Champion titles in S7 Space Models in 2018, 2021 and 2025.

Simon Bolfa (SVK)

Claimed the World Champion titles in S8 Junior Space Models in 2016, S8 Space Models in 2021, and S5 Space Models in 2025.

AWARDS FOR AEROBATICS (BY LAWS 7.8)

THE LEON BIANCOTTO AEROBATICS DIPLOMA (BY LAWS 7.8.1)

Eligibility: *The Diploma may be awarded to individuals or organisations that have contributed significantly to the sport of aerobatics.*

Rob Holland (USA)

Rob Holland was one of the world's most skilled and accomplished aerobatic competition and airshow pilots. His contribution to international aerobatics remains enduring. During his remarkable career, he won the US National Aerobatic Championship for thirteen consecutive years, surpassing the previous record of seven, and claimed the prestigious Mike Murphy Cup. He also won the US National Freestyle Championship fourteen times. At FAI level, Rob earned eight Gold Medals and one Silver Medal at the FAI World Aerobatic Championships and achieved the unprecedented distinction of six Gold Medals at the FAI World Freestyle Aerobatic Championships, together with the Manfred Strossenreuther Trophy. A member of the United States National Team since 2004, he was internationally recognised as one of the world's leading airshow performers, flying his modified MXS and earning the respect of civilian and military aviators. Through his performances and personal engagement, he inspired countless young people to pursue aviation. He served on the Board of Directors of the International Aerobatic Club including as Vice President and coached numerous aerobatic pilots and national team members. His extraordinary flying ability, generosity, humility and dedication to others established an enduring legacy, and his achievements continue to be remembered within the history of aerobatics.

AWARDS FOR ASTRONAUTICS (BY LAWS 7.9)

THE Yu. A. GAGARIN GOLD MEDAL (BY LAWS 7.9.1)

Eligibility: The Yu. A. Gagarin Gold Medal may be awarded to an astronaut who, in the previous year, is considered to have made the greatest achievement in Man's conquest of Space.

Not Awarded

THE V. M. KOMAROV DIPLOMA (BY LAWS 7.9.2)

Eligibility: This Diploma may be awarded to astronauts, members of multi-seater crews, for outstanding achievements in the field of exploration of outer space in the previous year.

Not Awarded

THE KOROLEV DIPLOMA (BY LAWS 7.9.3)

Eligibility: It may be awarded to technicians or engineers having worked in orbit or on a celestial body in building structures and/or their equipment, or in a non-planned restoration or repair of a broken device to make possible the continuation of a mission, and, on this occasion, having demonstrated human work in space.

Not Awarded

THE ODYSSEY DIPLOMA (BY LAWS 7.9.4)

Eligibility: It may be awarded to a person or a group of persons whose actions, achievements, or works on earth, in space, or on a celestial body have safeguarded or may safeguard human life in space.

Not Awarded

THE DIPLOMA FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN ASTRONAUTICS (BY LAWS 7.9.5)

Eligibility: It may be awarded to astronauts working as professionals (i.e. Government funded or perhaps as crew members of companies such as SpaceX) for their outstanding performance in exceeding the Karman Line. Whatever their role, they would have undergone a rigorous selection and training process after many years in prior fields of work and so their achievement would be among the high points of their career.

Not Awarded

THE ROBERT H. GODDARD GOLD MEDAL (BY LAWS 7.9.6)

Eligibility. It will be awarded to spacecraft operators, technicians or engineers for accomplishing a Miliarium Ad Astra Grand Challenge event which does not involve a crewed spaceflight. The Astronautic Records Commission shall validate the accomplishment according to the criteria and rules established for such Grand Challenge events. The Medal may also be awarded for an outstanding technical accomplishment demonstrated by an uncrewed spacecraft during the previous year.

Not Awarded

AWARDS FOR HANG-GLIDING AND PARAGLIDING (BY LAWS 7.10)

THE PEPE LOPES MEDAL (BY LAWS 7.10.1)

Eligibility: The medal may be awarded for outstanding contributions to sportsmanship or international understanding in the sport of hang-gliding and paragliding. The medal will only be awarded for truly significant acts or services and will not necessarily be awarded every year.

Not Awarded

THE FAI HANG-GLIDING AND PARAGLIDING DIPLOMA (BY LAWS 7.10.2)

Eligibility: It may be awarded to an individual who is considered to have made an outstanding contribution to the development of hang-gliding and/or paragliding by his or her initiative, work or leadership in flight achievement.

Steven Pearson (USA)

From 1977 to 2021, Steven Pearson contributed to the development of flex wing hang gliders through his work as Head of Design and Engineering at Wills Wing. During this period, he designed and brought into production 118 distinct hang glider models, accounting for total sales of 27,525 units. Among the aircraft he designed was the first glider to fly 300 miles and the glider that holds the current cross country open distance World Record. His design and engineering work covered the evolution of flex wing hang gliders from early Dickenson Rogallo kite derivatives to high aspect ratio, low twist flying wings. Through the development and production of these aircraft, he contributed to the technical evolution and performance of hang gliding equipment.

AWARDS FOR MICROLIGHT AND PARAMOTOR AVIATION (BY LAWS 7.11)

THE CIMA GOLD MEDAL (BY LAWS 7.11.1)

Eligibility. It may be awarded each year to an individual who has displayed distinguished leadership or eminent service to the sport over an extended period of time.

Not Awarded

THE COLIBRI DIPLOMA (BY LAWS 7.11.2)

Eligibility: It may be awarded each year to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the development of microlight or paramotor aircraft.

Not Awarded

THE ANN WELCH DIPLOMA (BY LAWS 7.11.3)

Eligibility: Diplomas may be awarded each year to the pilot or crew of a Microlight or Paramotor who, in the opinion of CIMA, made the most meritorious flight which resulted in a Microlight or Paramotor World record claim ratified in the year in question.

Paramotor

Not Awarded

Microlight

Jean-Baptiste Loiselet (FRA)

On 20 July 2024, Jean-Baptiste Loiselet flew to a barometric altitude of 5,675 metres, establishing the FAI World Record for Altitude in the RAL1E subclass, covering Microlights, Movable Aerodynamic Control, Landplane, Single Seat and Electric Engine. The record more than doubled the previous record of 2,366 metres, set in 2012.

AWARDS FOR AMATEUR-BUILT AIRCRAFT (BY LAWS 7.12)

THE PHOENIX DIPLOMA AND GROUP DIPLOMA (BY LAWS 7.12.1)

Eligibility: They may each be awarded for the best reconstruction or restoration of a vintage (more than 30-year-old) aircraft achieved by an individual amateur.in the case of the Phoenix Diploma and by a group of any size or description (e.g. museum, sponsored group, society, company) in the case of the Phoenix Group Diploma.

Phoenix Diploma

Not Awarded

Phoenix Group Diploma

Not Awarded

THE HENRI MIGNET DIPLOMA (BY LAWS 7.12.2)

Eligibility: This diploma may be awarded to an amateur aircraft builder or a group of builders, who have developed an aircraft of any category (including microlights) which has one or more of the following characteristics:

- *Low cost of operation and of building,*
- *Simple design (use of non-sophisticated design practices and techniques),*
- *Ease of construction and maintenance,*
- *Outstanding flying characteristics,*
- *Special features and innovative concept.*

Not Awarded

THE DAVID FAULKNER BRYANT DIPLOMA (BY LAWS 7.12.3)

Eligibility: This diploma may be awarded to an amateur aircraft builder or a group of amateur aircraft builders who have built a plan-built or a kit-built aircraft of any category. It does not apply to new design. The aircraft shall have received its certificate of airworthiness or equivalent and the builder(s) shall have been recognised in the applicant's country for best craftsmanship in the year before the award.

Not Awarded

AWARDS FOR ENVIROMENT (BY LAWS 7.13)

THE ANGELO D'ARRIGO DIPLOMA (BY LAWS 7.13.1)

Eligibility: It may be awarded to individuals or organisations that have contributed significantly to the defence of and respect for the environment affected by air sports. The activities may include scientific research, private, public or commercial events or activities, developed or promoted directly by Pilots, sport flying Clubs, NACs or Public or Private bodies as Small and Medium Enterprises.

Not Awarded

AWARDS FOR EDUCATION (BY LAWS 7.14)

THE NILE GOLD MEDAL (BY LAWS 7.14.1)

Eligibility: This medal may be awarded to a person, group of persons or organization to reward distinguished work in the field of aviation and space education, particularly during the year preceding its award.

Not Awarded

AWARDS FOR MEDICO- PHYSIOLOGICAL (BY LAWS 7.15)

DR. PETER SAUNDBY DIPLOMA (BY LAWS 7.15.1)

Eligibility: This FAI Diploma may be awarded annually, on the recommendation of the FAI CIMP sub-committee, to individuals, groups or organisations that have contributed significantly to flight safety and sport pilot performance in a broad sense. For example, but not limited to: human factors concepts, training facilities, scientific research, medical fitness and assessments, limited capabilities at air sport pilots, anti-doping, air sport rulemaking, work in FAI Commissions and related activities.

Geoffrey W. McCarthy (USA)

Colonel Retired Dr Geoffrey W. McCarthy served as a United States Air Force pilot physician and aerospace medicine specialist, including as Acting Chief Scientist of the Armstrong Laboratory's Crew Systems Directorate. He combined flight ratings with advanced aerospace medical expertise and conducted research into pilot G tolerance, positive pressure breathing and physiological countermeasures during high G flight manoeuvres. He has also contributed internationally to aerospace medicine through the Federation Aeronautique Internationale Medico Physiological Commission. Within the Commission, he leads the Therapeutic Use Exemption Panel and advises on anti-doping policy. His professional and FAI activities have combined aviation, aerospace medicine and medical oversight, contributing to the development of knowledge and policy relating to the health and safety of pilots.

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