



**PRESS RELEASE**  
For immediate release

## Awe-inspiring scenes at the FAI World Air Games Airshow

Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 3 December 2015 – **All eyes were on the sky at the Palm Dropzone yesterday, when thousands of people turned out for the United Arab Emirates National Day Airshow.**

Spectators young and old marvelled at the skill and daring of the eight aerobatics pilots who kicked off proceedings, the screaming roar of their 330-horsepower Lycoming engines echoing along the coast.

The so-called “unlimited pilots”, selected from around the world to compete at the FAI World Air Games Dubai 2015, were competing in the first round of their competition in their €400,000-euro planes.

Later in the day, they shared the skies with numerous other pilots, including participants in the paramotoring, aerobatic gliding and hot air ballooning competitions – and Jetman Yves Rossy.

Rossy and flying partner Vince Reffet delighted the crowd by linking up their jetpack wings with aerobatic ace Zoltan Veres and his three-man team.

*"We had three planes and two jets flying together,"* said Rossy as he unclipped from his tiny jet wing after landing. *"It's a first."*

Other highlights of the action-packed day included the first round of the swooping, or canopy piloting, competition, as well as the start of the paraglider accuracy-landing event over at the Beach Dropzone.

Conditions for both were tricky and, at the beach, reigning World Champion Matjaz Feraric from Slovenia was forced to land 28cm away from the target instead of within one centimetre as he'd hoped.

*"I saw the glider before me left their approach too high and overshoot, so I came in lower,"* he said. *"But then I landed short."*

Today (December 3), air sports fans can look forward to plenty more thrills and spills, with events including synchronised aerobatic paragliding and glider racing taking place at a number of locations.

Anticipation is also mounting ahead of this evening's spectacular Opening Ceremony at the Palm Dropzone.

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### About the FAI World Air Games

The FAI World Air Games, conducted under the rules of the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI), is the premier international multi-discipline air sports event fielding the world's top Air Sports athletes.

The FAI World Air Games 2015 has been awarded to the United Arab Emirates and will be held in Dubai. This multi-discipline event will be organised by the Emirates Aerosports Federation under the patronage of the Crown Prince of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and will take place from 1 to 12 December 2015.

Ten air sports are programmed: Aerobatics, Aeromodelling, Aerostats, Amateur-Built Aircraft, General Aviation, Gliding, Microlights & Paramotors, Parachuting, Paragliding and Rotorcraft.

The FAI's primary goals for this event are to determine "FAI World Air Games Champions"; to showcase air sports to the general public and promote public participation in air sports by attracting new participants to air sports disciplines; to promote FAI events to other sports organisations and to create an attractive platform for TV, media and other external stakeholders.

The past editions of the Games took place in Turkey (1997), Spain (2001) and Italy (2009).

#### **About FAI**

The [Fédération Aéronautique Internationale \(FAI\)](#), also known as the World Air Sports Federation, is the world governing body for air sports and for certifying world aviation and space records. The FAI was founded in 1905 and is a non-governmental and non-profit-making organisation recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

FAI activities include Balloons and Airships, Power Flying, Gliding, Helicopter flight, Parachuting, Aeromodelling, Aerobatics, Hang Gliding, Microlight and Paramotor Flying, Amateur-Built and Experimental Aircraft, Manpowered Flying, Paragliding and all other Aeronautic and Astronautic sporting activities.

For more details, please contact the FAI – Fédération Aéronautique Internationale

Faustine Carrera  
Communication Manager  
+971 50 753 88 32  
[communication@fai.org](mailto:communication@fai.org)

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