



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

Medal bonanza as swooping, airship racing and paragliding accuracy champions crowned

*Almost a clean sweep for the American swooping (canopy piloting) team

*George Cotet awarded the gold medal for paragliding accuracy landing

*Hot air airship medals presented; Poland takes gold

Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 7 December 2015 – **It was medals galore at the FAI World Air Games in Dubai last night (December 6), as the winners of the swooping, paragliding accuracy landing and hot air airships competition stepped up to the podium.**

Team USA pilots Curtis Bartholomew and Nick Batsch took the top spots in numerous canopy piloting, or swooping, events.

Bartholomew was the victor in the accuracy and combined titles, and also collected the gold team medal for the USA. Batsch won the speed and freestyle events.

"It feels awesome, but it takes a lot of hard work to get here," Bartholomew said. "I'm really lucky to have such a great teammate in Nick Batsch. We train all year round and we really feed off one another."

The distance category gold went to Cornelia Mihai, who also won two bronze medals in combined and speed.

The winning pilots in the paragliding accuracy landing competition also received their prizes at the ceremony.

George Cotet from Romania triumphed overall, with China's Qiang Ma in the silver medal position and Serbian Goran Djurkovic taking bronze.

Thailand's Nunnapat Phuchong collected the gold medal for the women's event.

"The most important thing is to concentrate and relax," said gold medallist Cotet, who plans to give his medal to his Mum.

"Whenever I compete, I do it for my mother," he added. *"It's all for her, including the medal."*

Earlier in the evening, Polish pilot Wojciech Bamberski was awarded the gold medal for the hot air airships competition.

Mikhail Bakanov from Russia received silver, and the bronze medal made a fabulous birthday present for Lithuanian Rimas Kostiuskevicius.

"This is my first ever gold," said Bamberski, who was taught to fly airships by his father. *"It feels amazing!"*

For full results of all the competitions taking place here in Dubai, check out the Live Scoring on the FAI World Air Games Dubai website: <http://wagdubai.ae/scores/ScoreSheet>

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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

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