

FÉDÉRATION AÉRONAUTIQUE
INTERNATIONALE

BALLOONING COMMISSION (CIA)
COMMISSION D'AEROSTATION

CIA Plenary
Hasle-Rüegsau, Switzerland
15-18 March 2023



CIA New Technology Subcommittee MINUTES 2023

New Technology Subcommittee members 2022:

Claude Weber, Luxembourg (chairman) - present
Steve Ireland, Australia (member) - present
Erwin Pellegrom, The Netherlands (member) - present
Marc Andre, Switzerland (member) - present
Bengt Stener, Sweden (member) - present

Observers:

Christian Michel (GER), Paolo Oggioni (ITA), Eungyoung Roh (KOR), Hiromi Furukawa (JPN), Rhonda Pritchard (AUS), Sam Parks (USA), Cheri White (USA), Maria Chiara Cremoni (ITA), Igor Charbonnier (ITA), Zydrunas Kaslauskas (LTU), Mike Meini (GER), Andy Baird (USA), Benoit Pelard (FRA), Dominic Bareford (GBR), David Bareford (GBR), Arkadiusz Iwanski (POL), Filus Witold (POL), Branko Ambrozic (SLO), Markku Sipinen (FIN), Ricardo Aracil (ESP), Gerald Stürzlinger (AUT), Luc Van Geyte (BEL), Sylvia Meini (GER), Christoph Fraisl (AUT), Mark Sullivan (USA)

There were no comments on the 2022 Minutes.

The main topic was the Balloon Live project. The members and participants present were given an update on the Balloon Live project status as well as the activities and developments made in the past year.

The following topics were presented and discussed:

- Since the beginning of the flying season 2022 a new payment system developed by FAI office is now used for the payment of the organizer setup fee. This is a completely automated payment system that integrates with FAI accounting and does not need any manual work anymore by the Balloon Live team. The payment can be done using Paypal. As a reminder, payment of the pilot registration fee is being handled by an in-app purchase system of Google and Apple.
- The updated financial model has been presented with actual numbers up to 2022. The numbers are quite good and the project generated a substantial profit in 2022. (see presentation attached) The projections for the upcoming years are on the conservative side. Overall, the cumulative cash flow of all logger projects until today are still on the positive side. Further investments should be made.

- The experience from the largest event run so far with Balloon Live and WatchMeFly, the World Championship 2022, showed that the app is very robust but also identified a few server issues on the WatchMeFly-side. These have been identified and partially fixed during the event but a new team member has joined, Christian Dreßen from Germany. He is an expert in server infrastructure and a new optimized setup is planned and already being tested.
- Andrew Robertson was asked to provide a quote for a pilot registration system to be integrated in WatchMeFly. A presentation of all the integrated features was given (see attached). The planned system was welcomed by all present and the quote (see details in the attached presentation) was accepted to be forwarded to the plenary for approval. (see motion 1)
- A more detailed report was given on the experience gained from the last World Championship. The Jury of the event recommended investing more in the server infrastructure. A redesign is planned for the coming weeks.
- The event director of the World Championship 2024 convinced the organizer to use Balloon Live and WatchMeFly as the main scoring system. This settles a strong discussion raised after the last plenary in 2022.
- The given numbers (see presentation attached) of WatchMeFly and Balloon Live usage for 2022 confirmed that acceptance of the system in competition events.
- Germany developed and tested a process for observing record flights with Balloon Live. A guide was presented and is joined to this report.
- No special update to the World Ranking list. It is being used and recalculated every 3 months.
- It is proposed to replace the various document cloud sharing solutions used by the WGs and SCs to be replaced by a FAI cloud system and a special synchronization client. Such a new setup will allow all WGs and SCs to streamline their work and sharing of online documents. The cost for 50 licenses, covering all users of all WGs and SCs, is about 1100CHF. This proposal was accepted and all members agreed to forward this as a motion to the plenary.

No further topics were discussed and the meeting finished on time.

Motion 1: NTSC moves to accept the investment of AUD 3,700 (approx. CHF 2,250) to develop the pilot registration system in WMF.

Motion 2: NTSC moves to accept the investment of CHF 1,100 to acquire 50 licenses for FAI Cloud sync client for all WG/SC members.

Proposed members for 2023:

Claude Weber, Luxembourg (chairman)

Steve Ireland, Australia (member)

Erwin Pellegrin, The Netherlands (member)

Marc Andre, Switzerland (member)

Bengt Stener, Sweden (member)

Hasle-Rüegsau, March 16, 2023

Claude Weber, New Technology Subcommittee Chairman