PROPOSAL TO IGC PLENARY 2019

Proposed by German Aeroclub / Gliding commission
Year 2

Re-establish the basic purpose of FLARM and define different and/or additional trackers for OGN tracking

It is proposed that:

IGC is asked to re-establish the basic purpose of FLARM and define different and/or additional trackers for IGC/OGN tracking.

Affects: Annex A

Discussion

A consequence of mandating a traffic awareness system (FLARM) is that live tracking is enabled over the entire Contest Area. This enhances public interest in our competitions, but it also enables tactical tracking of all the competitors.

Recent experiences at World and Continental Championships have resulted in the generally accepted opinion that the use of live tracking for tactical purposes has reduced the value of individual decision-making and has made the competitions less enjoyable to the pilots participating.

This is a proposal to preserve the benefits of FLARM as a traffic awareness / collision avoidance system, while making live tracking for tactical purposes difficult to the point of infeasibility. This is a technical challenge, but we believe that this is possible if IGC specifies both the hardware and functionality of onboard tracking devices and makes carriage of these devices mandatory.

The proposal consists of two components:

1. Allow pilots to restrict the range of their FLARM transmissions and to request "**no-tracking**" in the transmitted data, a current FLARM feature. IGC will sanction the use of ground stations that respect this request (e.g. OGN, the current version of the OGN respect that request), and consider the use of other stations to be unsporting. Pilots may be required to provide evidence of basic FLARM functionality by submission of FLARM Flight Logs. The Flarm units integrated on the flight computer/flight recorders record that set on the IGC file.

2. With input from OGN, ANDS, GFAC, and Annex A, supervise the development of a hardware and functional specification of "IGC/OGN Trackers." These trackers will report glider positions using strong encryption, which will make live tracking unavailable, except to the Organizers. The organizers can provide tracking information for the general public with a delay, making the tactical tracking useless.

We believe that the system can be specified "**Open Source**" without favoring a particular manufacturer. IGC must either control the firmware or create an approval process, similar to what we currently have for Flight Recorders.

We propose that the system to be developed in time for testing at the 2020 World Gliding Championships, and become mandatory to all CAT I competitions after WGC 2020, on a date determined by the Bureau.