

Report from Mr. Heinrich Schawalder, Chairman GAC – Air Nave Race Subcommittee, for the GAC plenary meeting 2008 in Prague

The Air Nav Race Subcommittee was set up at the last GAC meeting in Capetown. The Subcommittee got the task to develop a business plan and to submit this plan to the FAI via the president of the GAC. The verification of this business plan took a long time and was finally denied due to the high costs. In the end FAI was willing to support the Air Nav Project with CHF 5'000.-, the same amount as GAC. Thus we had CHF 10'000.- available for this project. Everybody involved in IT knows that the development of computer software for this kind of contest causes high costs, in any way beyond the approved budget.

Our friends from Spain engaged themselves to develop such a software. But the proposed costs for this software exceeded the financial possibilities. The project had to be stopped.

Through personal relationships by Maurice Ducret we had been able to win the collaboration of the technical University of Berne (Switzerland). The Project of the IT development was integrated in their studies for nearly zero-tariff.

Today we are proud to communicate that the first phase of development has been finished. We are now equipped with a tailored software fulfilling all the needs to start Air Nav Racing, including an automatic scoring system und continuously updated rankings. In February 2009 we will start the second phase with on time data transfer from the aircraft onto a big screen. Consequently we will be able to start the first test competition in summer 2009 in Switzerland.

Due to the limited financial possibilities we could unfortunately not integrate the members of the Subcommittee to the desired extent. For cost reasons I assembled a working team of professionals from Switzerland. This team reviewed and professionalized the Air Nav Race Concept in hundreds of hours worked, in countless meetings and with test flights. They also draw up the rules and regulations and accompanied the development of the software. The Precisions Flying Association Switzerland, with their president Esther Rimensberger, forwarded the aero technical support.

My special thanks go to Maurice Ducret, John Ducret and Martin Frieden. They gave me the technical supported concerning IT matters. All this for zero-tariff, just from joy to our sport.

I am convinced that Air Nav Race will popularize our sport for media, spectators and fans.