Flight Recorder Report

Flight Recorder Approvals:
There were no new flight recorders subject to approval.

During the 22nd World Precision Flying Championships we experienced some logger failures. Most of them (5) are related to the failure to switch on the logger. 2 loggers started the log after the start point and 1 logger received an impossible position on earth. All 3 types of used loggers are affected.

Future:
As mentioned last year I recommend approving the GPX file format as additional file format to the already used GAC format. The Spanish system DG100 is superseded by DG200. The software to readout the logger and create the GAC file is not compatible with the new DG200. On the other side the DG200 is now available to buy and uses newer and better components. The standard output file for GNNS logger is now GPX.

GPX is part of the new XML format and state of the art. All necessary information like in the GAC format are included and much more. During GAC competitions there is no chance to modify this file as every pilot is in a controlled environment.

I Included the GPX file as second file format in the annex 4. This makes it necessary to modify all current scoring software with the import function for this new format.

As an interim solution I will provide the conversion software to create the required GAC file from any GPX file. This conversion software will be available on spring 2016 free of charge and is under GPL v3 license. This open source project will be checked from my side and after passing all tests, declared as FAI approved software. The current plan is to start the conversion process just with a right click on this file and choose "convert to GAC"

For your decision please keep in mind we talking about the future in GNNS loggers. Currently I don't see a manufacture building logger or writing the necessary download software for such a special case and this low amount of logger to sell. The opening to an industry standard file format will allow us to use always the best available technology with a very cheap price.

The need of approving each type of logger is not changed.

FAI website:
Section GNSS Flight Recorders:

There are clear instructions how to approve a new flight recorder on the FAI website. After your confirmation the new annex 4 will be available on the FAI website. The FAI approved conversion software will be on the Approved Technical Equipment section in spring 2016.

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