

Specialist Report: Simugliding

Dedicated Glider Simulators

There is nothing really new, there are still 4 glider simulators on the market:

SFS (German)	www.sfspc.de/
Sailor of the Sky (Spanish)	www.sailorsofthesky.com/
Silent Wings (Norwegian)	www.silentwings.no/home/
Condor (Slovenian)	www.condorsoaring.com/

Condor is clearly the most popular. There are many multiplayer contests on internet. See the contests organised with Silent Wings and Condor:

www.silentwings.no/mp/
www.speedbattle-cup.com

At the World Gliding Championships in Rieti virtual competition races using one of the tasks of the day were organised by a group of Italian enthusiasts (See www.postfrontal.com). They recently proposed to the IGC to organise a Virtual World Gliding Championship and they are willing to help us create a virtual ranking list. Brian Spreckley will meet them in order to discuss these possibilities.

Generic Flight Simulators

The leader is still Flight Simulator X. The Service Pack which have been released by Microsoft clearly improve the frame rate and the fluidity of the simulator.

More and more sceneries based on Aerial picture are developed.

See for example the stunning sceneries of Switzerland, Austria and France:

www.flylogicsoftware.com/site/en/products/FSX/FSXflyCHPROen/FSXflyCHPROen.htm
www.flugwerk.at/products_e.htm
www.francevfr.com/index.htm

In these sceneries 3D objects (buildings, trees etc...) are created exactly where they are located on the pictures. The problem with these sceneries is that the loading of the associated high resolution pictures may take several minutes. However this problem will be solved with the advent of Solid State Drives which have much faster access times than the usual hard disks.

New tracking system

A new tracking system, based on data transmission by satellite phone, has been developed in UK and used successfully, in conjunction with Silent Wings, at the UK Grand Prix in September. Satellite transmission seems to be the only reliable way to transmit data for glider tracking.

For more details see:

<http://www.adventuretracking.com/airsports.htm>

The company offers a package including the rental of the « Yellow Bricks » tracking Unit, the Silent Wings login and the assistance (if required). This may be of interest for the future GP Organisers.

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