



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

Aerobatics: Gold medals for France and Italy!

*Italy's Luca Bertossio takes gold in the aerobatics gliding competition and Olivier Masurel claims first place for France in the powered aerobatics

*Climax of the hot air airships competition

*Final results in for the paragliding accuracy landing event

Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 6 December 2015 – **The medals for the aerobatics competition – one of the most breathtaking disciplines on display here at the FAI World Air Games Dubai 2015 – were awarded last night (December 5).**

Italian Luca Bertossio won the glider aerobatics event, while Hungarian Ferenc Toth took second place and Premysl Vavra, of the Czech Republic, came in third.

Red Bull pilot Bertossio, 25, kissed his medal after taking his place on the podium at Dubai's glorious Jumeirah Beach Hotel.

He said he owed his victory to years of training.

"Each heat is only two or three minutes, but your concentration has to be 100%," Bertossio said. "You prepare for years for those two minutes."

French pilot Olivier Masurel, 35, also got to climb to the top of the podium to claim his gold medal for powered aerobatics.

The silver medal in this event went to Artur Kielak from Poland and the bronze to American pilot Rob Holland.

"When it comes to competing, we all want to come first," Masurel said.

"It's a fantastic feeling to win when you're competing against the best pilots in the world."

Elsewhere, final results came in for the paragliding accuracy landing competition and the hot air airships event.

Polish pilot Wojciech Bamberski was victorious in the airships competition, with Mikhail Bakanov from Russia and Lithuanian Rimantas Kostiuskevicius taking the second and third spots.

And Romania's George Cotet took the top spot in the men's paragliding accuracy event after a nail biting final round.

Chinese pilot Qiang Ma took silver and Goran Djurkovic won bronze for Serbia, while Nunnapat Phuchong, from Thailand, clinched gold in the women's event.

"I'm so happy," said Phuchong, 28.

"The conditions were OK, but it was very intimidating to compete against the world's best."

Medals that will be decided today include those for the freestyle canopy piloting, or swooping, event.

Nick Batsch from the USA lead the competition overnight with 198 points after two of three rounds completed.

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About the FAI World Air Games

The FAI World Air Games, conducted under the rules of the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI), is the premier international multi-discipline air sports event fielding the world's top Air Sports athletes.

The FAI World Air Games 2015 has been awarded to the United Arab Emirates and will be held in Dubai. This multi-discipline event will be organised by the Emirates Aerosports Federation under the patronage of the Crown Prince of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and will take place from 1 to 12 December 2015.

Ten air sports are programmed: Aerobatics, Aeromodelling, Aerostats, Amateur-Built Aircraft, General Aviation, Gliding, Microlights & Paramotors, Parachuting, Paragliding and Rotorcraft.

The FAI's primary goals for this event are to determine "FAI World Air Games Champions"; to showcase air sports to the general public and promote public participation in air sports by attracting new participants to air sports disciplines; to promote FAI events to other sports organisations and to create an attractive platform for TV, media and other external stakeholders.

The past editions of the Games took place in Turkey (1997), Spain (2001) and Italy (2009).

About FAI

The [Fédération Aéronautique Internationale \(FAI\)](#), also known as the World Air Sports Federation, is the world governing body for air sports and for certifying world aviation and space records. The FAI was founded in 1905 and is a non-governmental and non-profit-making organisation recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

FAI activities include Balloons and Airships, Power Flying, Gliding, Helicopter flight, Parachuting, Aeromodelling, Aerobatics, Hang Gliding, Microlight and Paramotor Flying, Amateur-Built and Experimental Aircraft, Manpowered Flying, Paragliding and all other Aeronautic and Astronautic sporting activities.

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