



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **All rise for the new FAI World Air Games Glider Match Racing and Air Navigation Race champions**

\*Glider gold for Polish pilot Sebastian Kawa

\*General Aviation medals: overall gold goes to Marcus and Astrid Ciesielski of Germany

\*South Africa's Frank and Cally Eckard win the General Aviation Landing Accuracy; Norwegians Kurt Norevik and Petter Strømme triumph in the Air Navigation Race

Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 10 December 2015 – **Gliding ace Sebastian Kawa of Poland climbed to the top of the podium last night (December 9) to collect the coveted gold medal for the Glider Match Racing event.**

Also sporting medals at the gliding competition ceremony were Austrian Werner Amann, in silver position, and Tilo Holighaus of Germany in third place.

Kawa, who beat Amann in a thrilling final earlier in the day, paid tribute to the other competitors and the FAI World Air Games organisers.

"This is the best organised event I've been to," he said. "It's like the Olympics – a special event."

The ceremony – held at the Skydive Dubai Palm Dropzone – also honoured the winners of the General Aviation event, which included Landing Accuracy and Air Navigation competitions.

Marcus and Astrid Ciesielski of Germany were crowned the overall – or Top Air – FAI World Air Games champions, having come second in the Accuracy Landing and sixth in the Air Navigation Race.

Astrid Ciesielski, who has been flying with her husband of 30 years since 2003, said: "It's an advantage being married because we know each other without words."

Another husband-and-wife team, Frank and Cally Eckard from South Africa, claimed victory in the Landing Accuracy event.

The Air Navigation Race was won by Norwegian team Kurt Norevik and Petter Strømme.

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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.

For more details, please contact the FAI – Fédération Aéronautique Internationale

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