On top of the world!
The new FAI World Air Games Hot Air Ballooning champions

*David Strasmann of Germany claims the Hot Air Ballooning gold
*Steven Vlegels from Belgium takes the silver medal, and Stefan Zeberli from Switzerland gets bronze
*Lots more medals to be presented today – the final day of the biggest-ever multi-air sports event: the FAI World Air Games Dubai 2015

Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 12 December 2015 – **German balloonist David Strasmann beat 67 other pilots to be crowned the new FAI World Air Games Hot Air Ballooning champion yesterday (December 11).**

Also on the podium at the Sky Dubai Palm Dropzone were Belgium's Steven Vlegels in silver-winning second, and Stefan Zeberli from Switzerland in third place.

Gold medallist Strasmann, who came out on top of the huge, international field by attaining an impressive 7,282 points, received a standing ovation from the 300-strong crowd.

Later, he thanked the organisers of the competition for doing such a great job in sometimes challenging conditions.

"It was a tough competition because we had this wind changing direction in the afternoon," Strasmann said. "But we had a good crew, good speed, good wind measurements."

Medal celebrations will continue today, with ceremonies for all the remaining events – including Microlights, Paramotors and several Parachuting competitions.

Everyone here in Dubai is also looking forward to the final Airshow, set to include jaw-dropping stunts from paramotorists, gyrocopter pilots and skydivers, as well as a spectacular Closing Ceremony at the Palm Dropzone.

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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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