



**PRESS RELEASE**  
For immediate release

## Gold for Russia in the Rotorcraft competition

\*Victory for Russian helicopter pilots Alexander Zhuperin and Nikolay Burov

\*Brothers Michal and Marcin Szamborski take silver for Poland, and Austrians Thomas Morgenstern and Stefan Seer claim the bronze

\*British Weight-Shift Controlled Microlight pilots sweep the board, coming first, second, third and fourth

Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 11 December 2015 – **Team Russia was out in force to support helicopter pilots Alexander Zhuperin and Nikolay Burov as they received their Rotorcraft gold medals at the Skydive Dubai Palm Dropzone last night (December 11).**

“Russia! Russia!” rang out around the hall, as the new FAI World Air Games champions mounted the podium to accept their rewards.

“All the pilots taking part had a very high level, so it was not an easy competition to win,” Burov said of the event, which is composed of parallel slalom and parallel fender contests.

“The weather was difficult at times too, especially on the second day when it was very grey. So we are really happy to have come out on top.”

Polish pilots Michal and Marcin Szamborski were also thrilled with their performance, despite being pipped to the post by the formidable Russian duo.

“Surprised!” Marcin Szamborski said modestly, when asked how he felt about winning the silver medal.

“We knew that the gold medal was out of our reach, but we had a secret dream about winning silver – and now our dream has come true.”

And former Olympic ski jumper Thomas Morgenstern and his teammate Stefan Seer, both wearing traditional lederhosen, were delighted to win bronze for Austria.

“It feels great,” Morgenstern said. “Our mission is complete.”

The medal ceremony concluded with the presentation of gifts from the Russian delegation for director of the FAI World Air Games, His Excellency Yousif Hassan Al Hammadi.

But it was Team GB’s turn to celebrate earlier in the day, when British pilots scooped the top four places in the Weight-Shift Controlled Microlighting event.

David Broom clinching the gold medal spot, beating teammates Paul Dewhurst, Rees Keene and Mark Fowler into second, third and fourth places.

For full results of all the FAI World Air Games events, check the Live Scoring on the World Air Games Dubai website: <http://wagdubai.ae/scores/ScoreSheet>

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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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