



PRESS RELEASE
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US Skydiver Curt Bartholomew swoops in for victory

*Gold and silver for US competitors in the classical swooping, or canopy piloting, skydiving event

*First day of the International Symposium on Air Sport Medicine

*More podium positions to be claimed today

Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 5 December 2015 –**Parachutist Curt Bartholomew triumphed in the classical canopy-piloting competition at the FAI World Air Games in Dubai yesterday.**

The US skydiver was among the favourites from the start.

"It means everything," he said. "This is my fifth world title. I was pushing to get this one before I turned 30 because this is the last recognised FAI world title I haven't won yet."

Classical canopy piloting is a graceful, fast-paced discipline that is judged on accuracy, distance and speed.

Bartholomew's impressive performance gave him the edge over his US teammate Nick Batsch, who takes the silver medal.

Cornelia Mihai, part of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) team and the only woman in the competition, came in third.

"It was one of the tightest in a while, it came down to the last jump," Bartholomew added.

Earlier in the day, hot air airship pilots and balloonists put on a fabulous, ethereal display, and the UAE Airforce Aerobatics Team wowed the crowd with their jaw-dropping antics at the Palm Dropzone.

The International Symposium on Air Sport Medicine also got underway.

More than 100 health and aviation experts met up to discuss medical advances, including technology that can help top-level pilots make even more demanding flights.

Dr Melchor Antunano of the Civil Aerospace Medical Institute gave the inaugural lecture at the Dubai conference, which continues today.

"The weak link is the human body, but medical science is moving forward at an accelerating pace," he said.

Medal positions due to be decided today include those for the freestyle canopy piloting, paragliding accuracy landing and glider aerobatics.

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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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