

## Stagnation vs. Growth for ICARE?

The retirement of the Shuttle ended an era in which many records within the scope of Section 8 of the FAI Sporting Code were regularly broken. For the time being, it seems unlikely that new record claims will be received by ICARE. The growth of Space Tourism could present new opportunities that could keep ICARE busy for many years to come. Do we, ICARE, accept the challenge?

### **Commercial astronaut licensing**

- A commercial astronaut is a person trained to command, pilot, or serve as a crew member of a privately funded spacecraft. With the advent of private commercial space flight ventures in the U.S., the FAA has been faced with the task of developing a certification process for the pilots of commercial spacecraft. The Commercial Space Launch Act of 1984 established the FAA's Office of Commercial Space Transportation and required companies to obtain a launch license for vehicles, but at the time manned commercial flight - and the licensing of crewmembers - was not considered. The Commercial Space Launch Amendments Act has led to the issuance of draft guidelines by the FAA in February 2005 for the administration of vehicle and crew certifications. Currently, the FAA has not issued formal regulatory guidance for the issuance of a Commercial Astronaut Certificate, but as an interim measure, has established the practice of awarding "Commercial Astronaut Wings" to commercial pilots who have demonstrated the requisite proficiency.

Two Commercial Astronaut awards have been made. They are SpaceShipOne pilots Mike Melvill and Brian Binnie.

Question : Should the FAI / ICARE be involved? Concerned?

The Aéro-Club de France issued Aviators Certificates from 1909. These were internationally recognised under the authority of the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale. Similarly, the Royal Aero Club issued Aviators Certificates from 1910. These were also internationally recognised under the authority of the FAI.

- Astronauts for Hire (A4H) is a nonprofit corporation whose mission is "to increase the competitiveness of commercial astronaut candidates by providing skills training, facilitating forums for candidate communication, engaging with potential employers, and inspiring the next generation." With the assistance of a board of advisers composed of former astronauts, astronaut training specialists, and space operations professionals, the organization is developing a comprehensive set of training standards for use in training commercial astronauts.
- The Commercial Spaceflight Federation (CSF) is the industry association of leading businesses and organizations working to make commercial human spaceflight a reality. The mission of the Commercial Spaceflight Federation is to promote the development of commercial human spaceflight, pursue ever higher levels of safety, and share best practices and expertise throughout the industry. Currently, over 40 businesses and organizations are members of the Commercial Spaceflight Federation. Executive Members include commercial spaceflight developers, operators, and spaceports. Associate Members include suppliers supporting commercial spaceflight, with recent members including suppliers of mission support services and suppliers of training, medical, and life-support products and services.

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