Lausanne, Switzerland, 09 November 2021 – The 2021 FAI Awards winners were announced on 9 November 2021 in a live video shared at 19:00 UTC, in which tribute was paid to the many individuals and groups who have made exceptional performances, contributed to the development of aeronautics and astronautics, and created a lasting legacy through the promotion of air sports to new participants.

The awards are a highlight in the aviation and air sports calendar and to recognise the contribution made by the award winners is a fundamental part of FAI’s purpose, as noted by FAI President David Monks:

“Our 2021 award winners have made it their life’s work to share the joy of flight with others, either through pushing the limits of their sport or through contributing to the promotion and development of aeronautics or astronautics. At FAI, one of our most important roles is to recognise these outstanding performances and exceptional efforts made by individuals and groups, all of whom are part of the history, the present and the future of aviation.

Many congratulations to all tonight’s winners, and thank you for sharing your dedication and passion with the world.”

Manuel Roca Viaña from Spain is the winner of this year’s prestigious FAI Silver Medal, awarded for his contribution to the promotion of international air sports competition through many years of eminent service and devoted leadership within the RFAE (Royal Spanish Aeronautical Federation). He commented:

“This recognition is a great honour for me, and I will always carry it with the greatest enthusiasm. This award fills me with joy; it is a morale boost which renews and encourages, at both a personal and institutional level, my excitement and my wish to continue to contribute with the ideas, knowledge and experience that may serve in the interest of the international development of aeronautics.”

Lionel Adroit of France, winner of this year’s Henri Miguet Diploma for his conception and creation of the Handi-Montgolfière, a two-seater hot air balloon whose innovative design encourages participation and promotes diversity in air sports, said:

“The Henri Miguet Diploma is an honour for me, one of the most significant recognitions that an amateur aircraft builder can receive for the research, the creation and the construction of an aircraft.”

Winner of the Montgolfier Ballooning Diploma for Best Performance in Hot Air Ballooning is Kimberly Magee of the USA who shared the following statement:

“It is an honour to be recognised with a Montgolfier Diploma. I am grateful to be one of eight USA female pilots to earn the World’s top ballooning honour. I hope my adventures breaking six World and nine National records at 28 years old empowers other young female pilots to embark on similar challenges and push to new heights never before achieved.”
The annual FAI Awards takes place during the annual General Conference. This year the GC is taking place online between 9-11 November.

2021 FAI Award Winners:

FAI Silver Medal
Manuel ROCA VIAÑA (Spain)

FAI Group Diplomas of Honour
Sports Aviation Federation (Australia)
Aeroklub Jaroměř (Czech Republic)
Aero Club Ćuprija (Serbia)
Department of Aeronautical and Aviation Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Hong Kong Polytechnic University (Hong Kong, China)

FAI Paul Tissandier Diploma
Miguel Angel TERZO from Argentina
Ruth WILSON from Australia
Graeme HENDERSON from Australia
Bernhard REIF from Austria
Jacques BERLO from Belgium
Dan COOK from Canada
Eugenio MARTINEZ from Chile
Jiří UNZEITIG from Czech Republic
Miloš RAMERT from Czech Republic
Kimmo PAULARANTA from Finland
Christian RAVEL from France
Joachim LENK from Germany
Vasilis KATINIOTIS from Greece
Paul GIANNIOTIS from Hong Kong, China
Sushil BAJPAL from India
Pietro FILIPPINI from Italy
Flavio TEBALDI from Italy
Daiju KOHGA from Japan
Kyung Yong CHOI from Korea
Moon Tae KIM from Korea
Alan BEARD from New Zealand
Ian BEGBIE from New Zealand
Alexander BESSONOV from Russia
Anatolii ULANOV from Russia
Vladimir MITIN from Russia
Nikola BOROVAC from Serbia
Bengt STENER from Sweden
Henry LINDHOLM from Sweden
Pekka HAVBRANDT from Sweden
Charles BACHMANN from Switzerland
Bruno SCHERRER from Switzerland
Daniela SCHMITTER from Switzerland
Matthew BOLSHAW from United Kingdom
Peggy RIEDINGER from USA
2021 FAI Award Winners for Individual Disciplines

Montgolfier Ballooning Diplomas:
Best Performance, Gas Ballooning
Krysztof ZAPART (Poland) and Andy CAYTON (USA)
Best Performance, Hot Air Ballooning
Kimberly MAGEE (USA)

Lilienthal Gliding Medal
Eric MOZER (USA)

Leonardo Da Vinci Parachuting Diploma
Rina GALLO (Canada)

FAI Gold Parachuting Medal
Julia ANGELOVA (Bulgaria)

FAI Aeromodelling Gold Medal
Bogdan WIERZBA (Poland)

Alphonse Pénaud Aeromodelling Diploma
Matthew HOYLAND (United Kingdom)

Antonov Aeromodelling Diploma
Karl-Heinz HELLING (Germany)

Frank Ehling Diploma
Mike COLLING (Sweden)

Ann Welch Diploma
Paramotor - Krzysztof ROMICKI and Wojciech STRZYZKOWSKI (Poland)
Microlight - Colin FARGHER and Louis FARGHER (France)

FAI Gold Rotorcraft Medal
David MONKS (United Kingdom)

Leon Biancotto Aerobatics Diploma
Alan CASSIDY (United Kingdom)

Henri Mignet Diploma
Lionel ADROIT (France)

Editor’s note

List of the recipients with the descriptions of their achievements:
• https://fai.org/gc2021-awards

Where to watch the awards announcement video:
• https://fai.org/gc2021-awards
• https://youtu.be/z7qbdViCTCM
About FAI

FAI, 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 Aerobatics, Aeromodelling, Airships, Amateur-Built and Experimental Aircraft, Balloons, Drones, Gliding, Hang Gliding, Helicopters, Manpowered Flying, Microlights, Parachuting, Paragliding, Paramotors, Power Flying and all other Aeronautic activities and Space records.

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For more details, please contact the FAI:

Faustine Carrera
Communication Manager
0041 21 345 10 70
communication@fai.org

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