



**PRESS RELEASE**  
For 2 September 2019

## **One year since US glider pilots Payne and Gardner reached 22 657 metres**

Lausanne, Switzerland, 16 August 2019 – **The FAI is marking the first anniversary of the record set by US pilots Jim Payne and Tim Gardner for absolute altitude on a glider.**

One year ago on 2 September 2018, the Perlan 2 soared into the record books by reaching 22 657 metres (76,000 feet), the highest altitude ever reached by a glider.

The flight took place in El Calafate, Patagonia in Argentina, and was the third time in just a few days that the glider flew above the altitude of its own previous world record, set in 2017.

The Perlan Project's aim is to reach the edge of space at 90,000 feet (27.4km) in this purpose-built pressurised glider, by using stratospheric mountain waves, which are particularly strong in Patagonia.

To fly above the Armstrong Line – the point at which human blood would boil unless protected – the crew uses a specially designed closed-loop rebreather system, in which the only oxygen used is what the crew metabolizes. The aircraft's wings designed to be able to fly in less than 3% of normal air density and at temperatures of minus 70 degrees C, conditions approximating the surface of Mars.

With hopes of beating 2018's record, the Airbus Perlan Mission II team and the Perlan 2 glider are currently in El Calafate, making preparations for 2019's flights.

### **Notes for editors**

FAI logo: [bit.ly/FAI\\_logo](http://bit.ly/FAI_logo)

Record details: <https://www.fai.org/record/18704>

Photos (Flickr album): <http://bit.ly/perlan2-2018>

Perlan Project website: <https://perlanproject.org/>

### **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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