



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

New drone speed world record set at the FAI World Drone Racing Championships!

Shenzhen, China, 4 November 2018 – **Congratulations to Switzerland's Timothy Trowbridge: holder of the new FAI world record for speed over 100m with a racing drone***.

The drone racing pilot hit an average speed of 114.2382 km/h across two separate runs of the 100m track, which was specially constructed for the FAI World Drone Racing Championships here at the Shenzhen Universiade Center-Stadium.

It feels brilliant," he said. "The race was a lot of fun. When you get a good start you can just go full throttle all the way to the end."

A total of 62 pilots signed up to get the chance to become a world record holder and claim a \$3,000 cash prize.

The top four then took part in a final in which they raced in one direction before stopping, resetting and then racing back in the other direction, allowing judges to calculate their average time over two runs.

FAI Aeromodelling Commission President Antonis Papadopoulos said: "We ran the final in this way because FAI rules state that pilots must fly in both directions when they are participating in a world record attempt."

Competitors agreed that mastering the start was the key to getting a fast time.

Finalist Michael Isler of Switzerland said: "It's a completely different form of drone racing that is really all about the start."

"Getting the start right is definitely the hardest thing," added Korean pilot YoungRok Son, also in the final. "I like this format and would love to try it on a longer track of say 200m or 300m in the future."

About the FAI World Drone Racing Championships

A total of 128 pilots, including 44 juniors and 13 women, from 34 countries were in China this week for the first edition of the FAI World Drone Racing Championships, which ran from November 1 - 4, 2018

The Championships culminated with a Final on Sunday 4 November, followed by a Medal Ceremony at which the overall winner was crowned the first ever FAI World Drone Racing Champion.

FAI Gold, silver and bronze medals were awarded in four categories: Overall; Women; Junior; and National Teams (consisting of up to five pilots).

FAI Global Technical Partner Noosphere ran the event management system and registered participants, as well as managing the website and online results.

* The FAI is waiting for the record claim documentation to ratify this performance.

Notes for editors

FAI logo: bit.ly/FAI_logo

FAI World Drone Racing Championships:

- Logo: bit.ly/droneschps2018-logo
- Website: www.faidroneworld2018.aero
- Pictures: <http://bit.ly/straight-lineFAI>

FAI media channels dedicated to Drones

- www.facebook.com/drones.fai
- www.twitter.com/drones_fai
- www.instagram.com/drones.fai

About FAI

FAI, the World Air Sports Federation (www.fai.org), 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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