



**PRESS RELEASE**  
For 24 September 2018

## **Five years since Alexis Reichert broke the human-powered rotorcraft world record for women**

Lausanne, Switzerland, 19 September 2018 – **On September 24, 2013, Canadian pilot Alexis Reichert set a new female world record for flight duration in a human-powered rotorcraft by staying airborne for 53 seconds in the Atlas Human-Powered Helicopter.**

Ratified by FAI, her record-breaking flight fell into the air sports category Experimental/New Technologies.

It was conducted at The Soccer Centre in Ontario, Canada less than a year after initial flight-testing of the Atlas began, and was measured using video analysis of the flight data.

Alexis' achievement came just a few months after her brother Todd Reichert smashed the general record by managing a 64-second flight, during which the Atlas reached a height of 3.3 metres.

His efforts allowed the Atlas project to claim the \$250,000 AHS Igor I. Sikorsky Challenge requiring a human to hover to an altitude of 3 metres under his/her own power, and to remain aloft for at least 1 minute in 2013.

It was partly funded by the \$20,000 Prince Alvaro de Orleans Borbon Grant – awarded to Todd Reichert by the FAI in 2012.

The Atlas Human-Powered Helicopter is the brainchild of AeroVelo, the company Todd Reichert set up with his partner Cameron Robertson to work in collaboration with the Human-Powered Vehicle Design Team at the University of Toronto in Canada.

### **About the Atlas Human-Powered Helicopter**

Purely human powered, the Atlas Helicopter spans more than 45 metres, weighs less than 55 kilograms, and has no means of energy storage.

The four rotors are arranged in a square pattern and connected by a wire-braced truss structure, with the pilot suspended on an upright bicycle frame from the centre.

Constructed and tested in Canada, it is composed primarily of carbon fibre tubes.

### **Notes to editors**

Record details: [www.fai.org/record/alexis-reichert-can-16932](http://www.fai.org/record/alexis-reichert-can-16932)

Prince Alvaro de Orleans Borbon Grant details: <https://www.fai.org/news/prince-alvaro-de-orleans-borbon-grant-awarded-reichert-atlas-human-powered-helicopter-project>

AeroVelo details: <http://www.aerovelo.com/>

Videos: <https://cloud.fai.org/index.php/s/DLfTYrJfRV4oJgh>

## **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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