



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

Korea flies to victory at the 2019 FAI World Drone Racing Championship Grand Final

Xiangshan Ningbo, China, 14 December 2019 – **Congratulations to 16-year-old Korean drone pilot Changhyeon Kang: the new FAI World Drone Racing Champion!**

The talented young drone ace fought off stiff competition to climb to the top of the podium in Xiangshan Ningbo, China, alongside Australia's Thomas Bitmatta, 20, in second place and French pilot Killian Rousseau, 15, in third.

Kang also scooped the Junior title and led his national team to victory in the Team category, in which last year's winners Australia finished in silver medal position just ahead of host nation China.

In the Women's classification, the winner was once again Wanraya "Milk" Wannapong of Thailand – who is just 12 years old.

She successfully defended her title to finish ahead of Korean Siyun Park, 15, and Teng Ma, 34, of the USA.

And in the Junior category, 12-year-old JaeJong Kim of Korea and Australian Sam Heeps, 17, joined Kang on the podium to claim the second and third places.

Speaking at the event, Acting Secretary General of the FAI Markus Haggeneay said: "Congratulations to all the medallists, particularly the Korean team on claiming gold medals in a total of three categories, and the impressive young Thai pilot Wanraya Wannapong, who is now an FAI World Champion for the second time at just 12 years of age.

"And thanks to everyone who has played a part in making this FAI World Drone Racing Championship Grand Final such an excellent competition.

"There has been a fantastic atmosphere throughout and Aero Sports Federation of China (ASFC), the organiser Starmach, the city of Ningbo have done a great job."

Results

Overall

1. KANG Changhyeon (KOR)
2. BITMATTA Thomas (AUS)
3. ROUSSEAU Killian (FRA)

Women

1. WANNAPONG Wanraya (THA)
2. PARK Siyun (KOR)
3. MA Teng (USA)

Juniors

1. KANG Changhyeon (KOR)
2. KIM JaeJong (KOR)
3. HEEPS Sam (AUS)

National teams

1. Korea
2. Australia
3. China

About the 2019 FAI World Drone Racing Championship Grand Final

The 2019 FAI World Drone Racing Championship Grand Final (11-14 December 2019) was held at a dedicated drone-racing track, built especially for the competition in Xiangshan Ningbo, a coastal city in the south east of China about 300km from Shanghai.

Among the 112 participating pilots, 103 drone pilots, including 40 juniors and nine women, competed as part of 31 national teams. The other nine pilots competed as individuals.

They tested their skills on a three-level championship racetrack that was 4m wide and 6m high, with a total length of 630m.

Called Bi-Fish, it was inspired by the traditional Chinese Tai Chi symbol, and the maritime culture of Xiangshan, Ningbo – a former fishing village – and included lots of sharp turns, 16 air gates, and a tunnel.

Notes for editors

FAI logo: bit.ly/FAI_logo

FAI World Drone Racing Championships:

- Logo: bit.ly/WDRC2019-logo
- Results: faidroneworld.aero/results
- Website: faidroneworld.aero
- Pictures (free for editorial use): bit.ly/WDRC2019collection
- Clips, videos and livestream replay: www.youtube.com/airsportschannel
- TV clip, news, highlights show: www.4msports-server.com

Social media:

- Facebook: www.facebook.com/drones.fai
- Twitter: www.twitter.com/drones_fai
- Instagram: 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, Ballooning, 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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