



**PRESS RELEASE**

For immediate release

## **Air sports personalities honoured in prestigious FAI Awards Ceremony**

Lausanne, Switzerland, 26 Oct 2017 – **Outstanding pilots and pioneers from across the global air sports arena were celebrated last night, Wednesday 25 October 2017, at the 2017 FAI Awards Ceremony in Lausanne, Switzerland. The event was graced with the presence of several high profile guests, including Dr Thomas Bach, President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).**

The ceremony marked the start of the 111th FAI General Conference, which takes place in Lausanne on 26 and 27 October 2017.

FAI President Frits Brink presented more than a dozen awards to outstanding pilots and air sports supporters from around the world.

Opening the ceremony, Frits Brink told the audience: “The awards ceremony is where we can take time to recognise the people who have done the most, perhaps gone beyond the call of duty, in aviation, space and air sports.”

“The FAI Medals and Diplomas create an unrivalled roll call of historically important men and women, without parallel in air sports.”

The presence of the IOC President Dr Thomas Bach prompted Frits Brink to reflect: “Lausanne is the home of FAI, and a spiritual home of competitive sports, both on the ground and in the air. We are happy to embrace the ideals of the Olympic movement, and welcome members of the IOC to our table.”

Dr Thomas Bach said: “My heartfelt congratulations to all the winners of tonight’s awards”.

A special award, given by the Charles and Anne Morrow Lindbergh Foundation, was presented to Bertrand Piccard and André Borschberg who flew around the world aboard their solar-powered aircraft Solar Impulse. The two pioneers received one-off “Spirit of St. Louis – Tingmissartog” medals from Foundation Chairman John Petersen.

### FAI General Awards

#### **FAI SILVER MEDAL**

Graeme WINDSOR (Australia)

For his major involvement in FAI and parachuting as, among others, Jury President, FAI Commission President and President of Honour, and FAI Companion of Honour.

#### **FAI BRONZE MEDAL**

Tengku ABDILLAH (Malaysia)

For his eminent services to the FAI as Regional Vice President for East and South East Asia, and his contribution to the growth of air sports structures in this region.

#### **PAUL TISSANDIER DIPLOMAS**

Brazil - Gustavo Henrique ALBRECHT

For his remarkable services to Aviation and Sporting Aviation.

Hungary - László MÉSZÁROS

For his remarkable services to Aviation and Sporting Aviation, particularly Microlights.

Norway - Tom Erik SOERENSEN

For his remarkable services to Aviation and Sporting Aviation, particularly Aeromodelling.

Russia - Anatoliy SYRCHIN

For his remarkable services to Aviation and Sporting Aviation.

Russia - Viktor DEGTYAR

For his remarkable services to Aviation and Sporting Aviation.

United Kingdom - James TANNOCK

For his remarkable services to Aviation and Sporting Aviation, particularly Amateur-Built Aircraft.

#### FAI Awards for individual disciplines

##### **ANGELO D'ARRIGO DIPLOMA - Environment**

Siemens & Extra (Germany)

For their significant contribution to respect for the environment within air sports via the creation of the Extra 330LE, an aerobatic plane re-engineered with a Siemens electric engine.

##### **ANN WELCH DIPLOMA - Microlights**

Jan BEM (Czech Republic)

For his FAI World Record of 13min 7sec as time to climb to a height of 6,000m on 2 February 2015.

##### **FAUST VRANCIC MEDAL - Parachuting**

Klaus RHEINWALD (Germany) & Michael COOPER (Canada)

For their technical innovation and vision in creating the Paralog scoring system, coupled with the FlySight position-logging device.

##### **LILIENTHAL GLIDING MEDAL - Gliding**

Patrick PAUWELS (Belgium)

For his lifetime contribution and dedication to the sport of gliding and his long national and international service during several European and World Championships as steward or chief steward, among other duties.

##### **MONTGOLFIER BALLOONING DIPLOMAS - Ballooning**

Kurt FRIEDEN and Pascal WITPRAECHTIGER (Switzerland)

For their outstanding performance winning the Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett 2016 by flying 1803.40km in 58 hours 12 minutes.

##### **PEPE LOPES MEDAL – Hang Gliding and Paragliding**

Ben PHILPOTT (United Kingdom)

For the exceptional character and sportsmanship shown by his actions in assisting a fellow pilot in critical circumstances, despite having suffered a traumatic experience.

##### **PHOENIX DIPLOMA – Amateur-built and Experimental Aircraft**

Nigel LEMON FRAES (United Kingdom)

For his remarkable achievement in restoring a de Havilland Moth Major (G-ACGZ).

#### Special award from the Charles and Anne Morrow Lindbergh Foundation

##### **SPIRIT OF ST. LOUIS - TINGMISSARTOG**

Bertrand PICCARD and André BORSCHBERG (Switzerland)

For their extraordinary accomplishment of successfully circumnavigating the earth in their solar-powered aircraft Solar Impulse.

## Notes

Rights-free high resolution photography: [http://bit.ly/awards\\_pictures](http://bit.ly/awards_pictures)

## About FAI

FAI, the World Air Sports Federation ([www.fai.org](http://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 and Astronautic sporting activities.

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