

REPORT BY THE F.A.I. JURY TO THE INTERNATIONAL AEROMODELLING
COMMISSION (C. I. A. M)

EVENT DETAILS:

**2008 FAI WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR SPACE MODELS
(SENIORS AND JUNIORS)
(17-TH WORLD SPACEMODELLING CHAMPIONSHIPS)**

DATE: 22nd to 28th August, 2008 LOCATION: Lleida (Spain)

ORGANIZING NAC: Real Federacion Aeronautica Espanola

EXECUTIVE ORGANIZER: Aero Club of Barcelona

CONTEST EVENTS / NUMBER OF COMPETITORS/ NUMBER OF TEAMS

SENIORS			JUNIORS		
Class	Individuals	Teams	Class	Individuals	Teams
S3A	55	19	S3A	38	14
S4A	55	19	S4A	38	14
S6A	54	18	S6A	38	14
S8E/P	39	14	S8D	19	7
S9A	54	19	S9A	38	14
Total	257	93	Total	171	63
Comparison with 16 th EuSMCh2006 in Baikonur					
Total 8 classes	-85	-5	Total 8 classes	-79	-36
Decrease %	-24,85%	-28,22%	Decrease %	-36,19%	-34,37%
Total 5 classes	+6	-4	Total 5 classes	-25	-7
Increase %	2,39%	-4,30%	Increase %	-12,75%	-10%

Note 1: Participated 73 (101) junior competitors over 14 (21) countries and 131(143) senior competitors over 20 (25) countries. Figures in brackets designate participants in 16thWSMCh2006 held in Baikonur. Officially registered NAC teams from BLR, BUG, CHN, CZE, GBR, GER (S), ESP, ITA (S), JPN(S), LAT(S), LTU, MKD(S), POL, ROU, RUS, SRB, SLO, SUI(S), SVK, USA. Total: 20 countries (14 junior teams). Some competitors participated in more than one class.

Note 2: Comparison between previous 16th WSMCh held in Russian Space Center Baiokonur in 2006 (where 8 classes were flown) and this 17th WSMCh2008 held in Spain (where only 5 classes were flown for the first time in WSMChs) showed relative decrease of total entries of about 25 % for seniors and 35 % for juniors. However, when only the relevant 5 classes are compared an average decrease of about 4% for seniors and 10 % for juniors is noticed in these classes.

Note 3: Figures are much more illustrative if we do not look at numbers of entries by classes, than at numbers of sportsmen that participated in these Champs, which clearly show decrease of 27,72% (73/101) for junior individuals, 33,33% for junior teams (14/21), 8,39% for senior individuals and 20% (20/25) for senior teams. This decrease of participation is very serious in junior individuals. These figures show that reduction of classes from 8 to 5 in WSMChs was an unhappy and unsuccessful experiment, which must be corrected as soon as possible.

EVENT PERSONNEL: CONTEST DIRECTOR: Esther ROURA (Spain), RANGE SAFETY OFFICER (RSO) for Seniors: Marian CUDEN (SLO) and RSO for Juniors: Georgi GEORGIEVSKI (MKD).

FAI JURY: PRESIDENT: Srdjan D. PELAGIC, dipl.ing (Serbia) MEMBER 1: Ed PEARSON (USA) 2: Stanislav ZHIDKOV (RUS), RESERVE: Jose Luis Cortijos (ESP).

COMPLAINTS AND PROTESTS: There was one complaint on timekeeping by a Turkish team manager, which was upheld and the relevant NAC was notified by the Jury President with request to suspend that time-keeper from FAI events for one year. There were no formal protests.

COMMENTS ON THE EVENT:

GENERAL: 17th WSMCh2008 in Spain was the first ever WSMCh organized in Western Europe (the first EuSMCh was organized at the same field back in 1979). This was also the first WSMCh conducted by two ladies: Esther Roura and Neus Misse (known as Mama Neus), who did a great job and who deserve thanks for their hard work and long term devotion to spacemodelling. Spanish SM community is small, but very much devoted to spacemodelling, which successfully organize SM WCups for years. Organisation of the a WSMCh was a really big snack for them, but all mistakes that came out of inexperience and language barrier should be pardoned because of a heartfelt hospitality met by all Spanish SM people everywhere. This was returned by understanding and help of many top SM experts from different countries – so this fine event was successfully completed.

PRE-CONTEST INFORMATION: There were three Information Bulletins and a WEB site www.cabarcelona.net that contained all necessary informations. However, dissemination of informations during the competition days was very uncertain. It related schedule for transportation to and from the field, schedule for the next day, local rules etc. Posting of information at the information boards was not regularly or on time applied and this was reason for some discussion between the participants and the organizers, which should be avoided. Fortunately this has not caused more serious problems.

ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND TRANSPORTATION: Accommodation was at three very good hotels. Food was very good. Breakfasts and dinners were served at hotel restaurants and lunch in the field. Transportation to the field and back was by busses and private cars.

FLYING FIELD & LAUNCHING SITE: Sporting Airfield Alfes close to Lleida was very large and flat enough with no obstacles. It was very good for SM competition. There was erected a village of tents for the FAI Jury, PC center, cafeteria, dining room and teams' working places, etc. The layout of the field and form and number of special tents reminded to the most successful WSMChs held in Deblin (POL) iz 2004 and Baikonur (RUS) 2006. Standard semicircular launching areas with launching sites for each team in junior and senior classification existed. There were separate public address systems for seniors and juniors available to RSO to make announcements to sportsmen. This field is also a protected area for spacial birds and there was a special allowance received to fly our event here. This was a reason why relatively high but rare grass was not cut as it is normal at other flying fields, but it was not a problem for sportsmen.

WEATHER: Weather was mostly good with temperatures from 21 C in the morning to 34 C in the afternoon. Windspeed was up to 3 m/s except during S8E/P flights when it ranged from 4-7 m/s with bursts of higher windspeed, but within the limits for SM contests.

MODEL PROCESSING AND ENGINE TESTING: Models were processed before the competition at the hotel terrace. Model processing was very good. A quality engine tester from Czech Republic operated by an experienced team led by Jan Zigmund has tested several hundreds engines precisely and efficiently.

FLYING: Field, temperature and weather conditions were mostly very for flying. The organizers provided enough domestic and foreign timekeepers, who were additionally instructed by the organizer prior to competition days. However, a language barrier and inexperience of some timekeepers caused some misunderstanding between competitors and timekeepers and also between timekeepers and RSOs. Timekeeping was mostly correct with one exception, which caused a complaint by Turkish Team Manager, which was upheld and this timekeeper's NAC was notified by the Jury President and asked to suspend this timekeeper for one year. Sound signals indicated beginnings and ends of the rounds.

DATA PROCESSING: There was a computer center in a container in the field, with a qualified operator. However he was very slow and with a very limited command of English, so he was the weakest spot at the whole Championships. Placing lists were posted at the information board with a big delay. Also the program with data processing was unusual and partly in Spanish, so there was a need to make correction in score presentation. He was replaced after some time with another man and situation partly was improved. The organizers invested a lot of money to provide score presentation at large plasma screens, but a computer operator located them at a wrong position exposed to sun, so their usage was very limited.

CEREMONIES & PRIZES: Opening Ceremony was Sports Hall in Lleida with attendance and speeches of local authorities. It was preceeded by the Lleida Mayor reception for FAI jury, judges and team managers at the Lleida Township Hall, a building with an old tradition and a very attractive appearance. The prizegiving ceremonies for individual and team winners were organized in flying field at the end of each competition day. The winners were awarded with CIAM medals, FAI diplomas and also with organizer's cups. A very friendly and pleasant Closing Banquet with the Closing Ceremony was held on last evening at a very attractive restaurant about 10 km out of Lleida. The best teams were awarded in junior, senior and overall classification by the organizer. It was the Russian team in all three classifications.

THE SPACE MODELLERS' MEETING: Space Models S/C meeting was scheduled for the evening of the last competition day. However, because of some delays in the field it was rescheduled for the last day in the morning. Since an excursion was scheduled for the same time very limited number of SM SC members decided to stay and convey. These were representatives of USA, GBR and SM SC Chairman. So this meeting became a very interesting round table discussion on future of SM. Evrybody agreed that limitation of number of classes from 8 to 5 in WSMChs and CSMChs was a very bad experiment, caused fall of interest in the FAI competitions especially by youngsters. Dr John Langford gave a proposal to rectify it by returning 8 classes to SM Champs but to limit number of team medals to only one, as it was practice for years. This was supported by the whole panel.

EXCURSION: There was organized a very attractive excursion on the last day in Lleida surroundings.

REMARKS: Let us devide the remarks to positive and not too positive. Let us come out with "not too positive" first: a) Lack of information boards caused problems with dissemination of information. b) The Bulletin with the final results was printed and distributed to the participating teams very late and the final results were available at the end of the Closing Banquet. The Closing Ceremony had to be postponed for almost one hour until the results arrived, although the results for each class were prepared on every competition day. c) Many difficulties were also noticed in organizer's and local time-keepers' ability to communicate with foreign teams in English, and the English speaking FAI Jury member, which needs to be improved in future. "Positive" remarks are: a) Esther Roura and Neus Misse and their associates from AC Barcelona deserve everyones thanks and congratulations for a very small team with an enormously hard work and limited means succeeded to organize such a large event like a WSMCh, for the first time in any of West European countries. b) Heartfelt hospitality was met everywhere by all hosts. Their constant smiles and wish to show their firendship may be an example for every organizer. c) Interest and support by local authorities, local government bodies and media coverage increases in Lleida constantly and Lleida seems to become a very important venue for SM international competition in a very near future. A general impression of all participants in the 17th WSMCh was that the decrease of number of classes from 8 to 5 as dictated by new CIAM rules did not contribute to more relaxed schedule of the events, but has remarkably reduced the interest of young people in SM in many countries. This must be urgently rectified.

Srdjan PELAGIC (SRB), FAI Jury President

Ed PEARSON (USA), Member

Stanislav ZHIDKOV (RUS), Member