

Jury Report 2015 Space Models European Championships

for Seniors and Juniors

Lviv, Ukraine, August 21-28

Organizer, Venue

April 2013 the Federation of Aeronautical Sports of Ukraine was allotted the 2015 FAI Space Models EuCh. Originally, a venue in Dnjepropetrovsk had been taken into consideration as it's the place of the Spacemodelling Sports Federation of Ukraine and of their sponsor, the company Noosphere. The annexation of the Crimea March 2014 through Russia and the threatening war in Donbass let the organizer change their mind in order to move the 2015 event to the very West of the Ukraine. Lviv/Lemberg, an old European town with rich tradition, is situated just 70 km from the border to Poland, offering comfortable travelling even by car for most European teams. A flat green open space some kilometres north of the big city had been prepared as a flying field and for a market place with tents for teams, a restaurant, small shops, a stand for spectators and prize giving ceremony and a huge screen. Marking the boundary of the field to the West, a main road from the city centre reduced the driving time from the hotels to minutes.

Participation

The event suffered somewhat from the fact that on the other end of the big country a more or less open war was going on. Especially teams from Russia and from Western Europe were missed; altogether attended 11 teams from BLR, BUL, EST, ITA, LAT, LTU, POL, ROU, SVK, SUI, UKR the EuCh, plus USA. BUL, LTU, POL, ROU, SVK and UKR (6) sent as well Junior teams. 59 Seniors and 37 Juniors were competing in the 10 different classes eligible for international championships (8 for Seniors, 8 for Juniors).

Contest Organisation

Excellent standard of rocketry in Ukraine and an outstanding support by resources of the Noosphere Company (CEO Michael Riabokon was Event Director) made the event looking perfectly organized. In the approach, changes within the panel of officials caused hectic; positions had to be replaced. Nothing of that hectic during the event; especially the two RSO (Jan Maixner for Seniors and Ewa Dudziak Przybytek for Juniors) proved to be in complete control of their difficult tasks. Same regards to the very good work of secretary Hanna Hapon and all helpers in order to get the results almost instantly processed. The big screen showed these data to the public which remained on the marketplace. Footage of several cameras was mixed in and could be watched worldwide live via internet as the screen-view was transmitted to a satellite.

At the first day the gap between the end of the competitions and the prize giving seemed rather long, but as soon as routine was built up the awarding went very well. All 16 competitions started punctual, not at least because the event was blessed with very good weather. Well visible screens counting down the time of every round provided - in combination with a reliable PA system - information for all contestants.

According to long-term experience, during late summer the wind is expected to come from the west. In difference to this forecast, wind from the east prevailed during the event, making retrieving in high grown weed sometimes difficult.

That of 79 flights classes S1A/B (altitude) 21 could not be counted, is not only caused by difficult retrieving conditions and resulting not found altimeters. The performance of the second stages too small let them often vanish in heights of 400 or even 700 m, leaving no idea where stage and streamer might have gone. The subcommittee should be alarmed by the fact, that the introduction of altimeters did little to improve this core challenge of rocketry.

Protests

Two protests and one complaint had been submitted, all had been upheld by the FAI Jury. While one protest and the complaint regarded officials' rules interpretations not shared by the Jury, the other protest is of interest. Vol SM 11.7.4.8. does not mention fractions of points in order to classify group related flying. Computer generated rounding off to full points awarded another pilot the fifth place in the final (S8P, Seniors) than rounding off to 1/100 of points! The Jury decided in favour of the better pilot and recommends to clarify the wording of the paragraph.

Ceremonies

The **Opening** took place on the market area of the town Zhovkva in front of a well preserved baroque castle, some kilometres north of the flying field. Inhabitants of the town were invited to join the spectacle. After the opening speech of the FAI Jury President regional authorities and even the bishop of the high church nearby wished the very best to the event, followed by dance shows and pop music.

The **Closing** had been integrated into the impressive banquet, celebrated at the Hotel Warsaw, halfway from Lviv to the flying field. - FAI-medals and -diplomas were already awarded after the competitions on the flying field's market place.

Public Awareness

The opening was the lively invitation to see the competitions. Free busses from Zhovkva to the field brought a permanent stream of visitors, enjoying three holidays as Monday, 24th of August, was the National Day of Ukraine. The visitors watched the climbing rockets from a grandstand if they didn't prefer to approach the launching area. Children were invited to build space models with streamers which later could be launched on spot midst of the market place. Next day the kids painted what they saw or experienced. - To our knowledge, never before an FAI Space Models Competition had been that well organized to become a popular event for a whole region.

Conclusion

Exceptional event, and an example to other CIAM classes how to convert competitions blamed being boring into meetings of great popularity.

FAI Jury:

Gerhard Wöbbeking (GER)

Tadeusz Kasprzycki (POL)

Juriy Hapon (UKR)