

FEDERACION AERONAUTICA INTERNACIONAL

VICEPRESIDENTE

PRESIDENTE DE LA
COMISION INTERNACIONAL DE RECORDS ASTRONAUTICOS (ICARE)



REPORT FROM ICARE PRESIDENT 98th FAI General Conference, Paris, France, September 2005

1.- General Activities of ICARE Committee 2003/2004

The ICARE Committee held its annual meeting on April 2005, at the FAI Headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland.

2.- X Prize

As I reported last year (2004), at least one team from the US was going to make the attempt to go privately into space within year 2004.

In fact, SpaceShipOne (as the space ship is named) made two flights in less than 5 days reaching the 100 Km altitude of Space Frontier on Sept-Oct 2004.

They won the X-PRIZE, but more than that, they opened the possibility of private people going to space.

I was present at both flights, lifting from, and landing at, Mojave, California. I was invited to attend as President of ICARE and on behalf of FAI. I also had the opportunity to address the special invitees (see my speech enclosed) on behalf of ICARE, FAI and EADS CASA that paid for my trip.

I have no doubt it was an amazing achievement, and I myself, and all members of ICARE were delighted to have been able of witnessing such an event in our lifetime.

3.- Other matters

The year 2004 may be considered a real milestone on space matters. Like all milestones, it gives us the opportunity to reconsider our rules, or at least clarify them.

The SpaceShipOne has brought to our attention two matters that need the consideration of the General Assembly. Those matters are:

- a) The 100 Km altitude boundary: Rules of ICARE require passing that altitude for recognising the flight as Astronautic. However, we are informed that such limit is not recognised in other Commissions, with the consequence that flights reaching the

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100 Km altitude are still valid for Aeronautical Records. This duality must be solved.

- b) The Gold Medals of FAI: It was agreed in the present year to award the Gold Medal for Astronautics (ranking equal to Gold Medal for Aeronautics) to an undefined team of people. I do think this is contrary to the spirit of the FAI Gold medals, to be awarded, in my interpretation, to named individuals.

I beg the General Assembly not to understand my above comments as trying to reverse present and past matters. But I think clarifications for the future must be made in two important matters for our Commission:

- a) Are flights reaching above the 100 Km boundary candidates for Aeronautical records?
- b) Are generic teams accepted candidates to the FAI Gold Medals?

I do present my apologies to the General Assembly for not being able to attend such an important meeting, but other private concerns retain me in Madrid.

Dr. S. Sanz Fernández de Córdoba
ICARE President