

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CIAM SUBCOMMITTEE F7 MODEL AEROSTATS ACTIVITY FOR 2022

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The CIAM Subcommittee Model Aerostats is composed of 7 members in 2022, from three different countries from three continents. The SC communicates via email and meets at the open international contests.

The 2022 F7 SC meeting was held via WhatsApp. Four members from two countries participated. The topics open for discussion were:

1. Open International Series “Hugo Eckener Cup”

An Open International Series has been proposed to later evolve into a world cup, when applicable. A ranking list that has been developed for German championships and the open international competitions done so far shall be applied. The ranking list is called “Buddy Count”: It counts and accumulates the number of competitors (or “buddies”) that have been defeated (or “bettered”). This ranking considers both the willingness to attend smaller competitions, and the difficulty of winning against a larger number of competitors in larger events.

2. Propeller Guards

Airships are relatively slow, highly visible, and come with inherent aerostatic lift. These facts make airships very safe. Thus, in Germany model airships are allowed to fly over not involved people. To further reduce the risk of injuries, the mandatory use of propeller guards/shrouds/ducts has been proposed.

3. Allowing Flight Control Systems

A number of competitors continues asking over the years if flight control systems might be allowed in competitions. The subcommittee sees the sportive character in solving such a complex task, as there is no such system available on the market applicable to airships. Thus, it has been proposed to specifically allow flight control systems in F7B Model Airships.

4. Typo in the calculation of the reference volume.

A reference volume or “block volume” is computed for model airships to penalize larger airships, that can generally fly faster. A typo in the equation to compute said block volume has been corrected.

Proposals have been compiled and uploaded to CIAM on November 15, 2022.

A new class of outdoor model airship regattas has been discussed. The chairman proposed to discuss the case with the CIAM Bureau before compiling proposals. A test trail will be flown in Uetze, Germany, end of May 2023 in scope of a local outdoor aeromodelling event.

CAT 2 Open International Competitions conducted so far were as follows:

2022 Friedrichshafen,	Germany,	9 competitors, 3 countries, 3 continents
2022 Mumbai,	India,	5 competitors, 2 countries, 2 continents *
2021 Friedrichshafen,	Germany,	9 competitors, 2 countries, 2 continents
2019 Friedrichshafen,	Germany,	12 competitors, 3 countries, 1 continent

* In the case of the Open International in Mumbai, India 2022, 14 student teams from all over India joined the competition without FAI licenses. The event has been covered by the Times of India, being the fifth largest English print media worldwide.