



FAI Astronautic Records Commission (ICARE)



2025 Plenary Meeting Minutes

18 March 2025 (online meeting via zoom)

Ver. 1 2025-06-05

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WELCOME BY THE PRESIDENT

The President welcomed all attendees, delegates, experts and FAI observers.

ROLL-CALL

Present

Scott NEUMANN (USA) – Commission president
Henrik ÅKERSTEDT (SWE) – Commission vice-president
Nicolas BÉREND (FRA) – Technical expert
Luca URBANI (ITA) – Delegate
Amy SPOWART (USA) – Alternate Delegate
Narit PIDOKRAJT (SWE) – Alternate Delegate, Education Liaison
Agust GUDMUNSSON (FAI)
Markus HAGGENEY (FAI)
Visa-Matti LEINIKKI (FAI)
Dr. Shelia NEUMANN – Observer, Environmental Liaison

DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Annex 1 – 2024 Plenary Meeting Minutes_v1.

No changes were requested for the previous plenary minutes.

Approved.

FAI ACTIVITIES

Annex 2_FAISecGen-report-for-plenaries-post-GC-2024 (short-for-ICARE)

FAI Secretary General, Markus HAGGENEY presented the report, see annex 2 for details.

ASTRONAUTICS ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

Nordics:

New national policy recognizing dual use (private/public partnerships) of spaceflight facilities.

Norway has an orbital rocket on the launch pad scheduled for launch in March (Spectrum) with a 1000 kg payload for a LEO orbit.

Denmark's now has engine test stand for a crew rated rocket engine.

Fram II mission will be a civilian flight with a Norwegian cinematographer Jannicke Mikkelsen on a SpaceX crew dragon – first crewed mission with a polar orbit.

ESA/FR:

No report.

ITA:

- Spaceflights by Italian astronauts highlighted including astronauts who completed ESA reserve astronaut training.

USA:

Blue Origin completed first flight of the New Glenn rocket.

SpaceX Starship continues development flights. New path for rocket system development with fly-test-fly philosophy.

Boeing Starliner astronauts Williams and Wilmore return from ISS today.

Polaris Dawn set new record (orbital altitude – Female record), the first in a long time.

INTERNATIONAL ASTRONAUTIC FEDERATION

Mr. BEREND was not able to personally attend the International Astronautic Federation conference this year. There was an increase in the number of abstracts and papers presented, particularly those from students.

Mr. BEREND was nominated to be the ICARE representative to the next IAF conference which will be held in Australia. Mr. BEREND will present a paper including updates on the ICARE Grand Challenges and the revised Karman Line definition. (Mr. Berend was also interviewed for an article describing the new Karman line definition.)

NEW ASTRONAUTICAL RECORDS - REPORT

Two new records were claimed for Orbital altitude – female category, (Absolute Record and Class K) by the female crew members of the Polaris Dawn mission. (This represents the furthest distance from the Earth by a crewed mission since Apollo.)

FAI SPORTING CODE

Mr. Neumann reported on the work of the Bureau drafting the new Section 8 rules. The rules for Class K suborbital records is complete and the group is now working on rules for the Near Space domain records. Work on the celestial body records and the new domain of Deep Space will follow. Class P records should benefit from the work on Class K and can reuse much of the new language. The project remains on track but is a multi-year endeavour.

DISCUSSION OF MODERNIZED DEFINITION OF KARMAN LINE

Summary of previous Plenary work with the new technical definition of the Karman Line and the decision to retain the 100 km value.

Mr. Berend was asked and agreed to write a FAI Karman Line paper for publication in a technical, peer-reviewed journal. This will provide visibility and technical rigor for the new definition.

ICARE 'MILIARIUM AD ASTRA GRAND CHALLENGES

Annex 3- ICARE Special Meeting Minutes

Annex 4a - Grand Challenges Sporting Code Section 8

Annex 4b - Sporting Code – Section 8 (Annex A)

ICARE Special Meeting held 14 January 2025 where the delegates approved the new Chapter 9 and the Annex A with the Grand Challenge event descriptions. (The meeting minutes from the special meeting and the final Grand Challenges Sporting Code are included in Annex 3 and 4.)

Mr. Neumann also reported that an implementation or “roll out” plan was developed and shared with the FAI Secretariat. The specific actions include By Law changes for the Robert H. Goddard Space Gold Medal, purchase of a license for the artwork to be used media and other Grand Challenge printed materials, addition of the new sporting code sections to the official Sporting Code, Press releases and addition of the Grand Challenge registration fees to the FAI fee schedule.

Mr. Haggenev added that many of the remaining action to implement the Grand Challenges would need FAI Secretariat involvement and would follow the established, formal processes.

[Subsequent to the ICARE Plenary, FAI President Principato informed Mr. Neumann on 18 April 2025 that the FAI Executive Board had serious concerns about the naming of the Grand Challenge events

and asked that the event names be removed from the Annex A. Mr. Neumann agreed to this request and changed the names for each of the challenges. On the advice of the Secretariat Staff, this was done as a minor editorial change. None of the other challenge rules or procedures were changed.

The Grand Challenge event names were changed to the following descriptive names:

- The Zamka Challenge to The Spacecraft Reusability Challenge
- The Greason Challenge to The Orbital Refueling Challenge
- The Manx Challenge to The Orbital Debris Mitigation Challenge
- The Armstrong Challenge to The Lunar South Pole Landing Challenge
- The Neumann Challenge to The Mars Landing Challenge

The EB will be seeking statute changes to implement an FAI policy on naming Challenges/Competitions etc. After that policy is established, the commission will have the option to name the existing and future challenge events in accordance with FAI policy at a future Plenary meeting.]

COMMISSION NAME CHANGE

Mr. Neumann reminded the group that the mission scope for ICARE had been expanded during the last General Conference to include space exploration activities in addition to space records. During the ICARE Special Meeting, Mr. Urbani had suggested changing the commission name to better include the expanded mission. The delegates concurred that there is value in keeping the ICARE acronym the same for continuity.

A motion was made to change the commission name to “International Commission on Astronautic Records and Exploration”. The motion passed unanimously and will be forwarded to the FAI Secretariate for further action.

EXTENSION OF BUREAU TERMS TO 2 YEARS

ICARE is the last remaining FAI airport commission to have one-year terms for Bureau members. Mr. Neumann proposed extending the Bureau terms to two (2) years.

A motion was made to adopt a two-year term for ICARE Bureau members. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF FAI AWARDS NOMINATIONS

No award nominations were received for this year. Mr. Neumann encouraged all NACS representing countries with spaceflight activities to make nominations.

Mr. Akerstedt had previously nominated astronaut Marcus Vant for the Komarov Diploma for the Axiom 3 mission during the 2024 Plenary. The nomination was tabled when it was determined that the accomplishments included in the nomination did not occur “in the previous year” but were more recent.

The accomplishment can now be considered by the 2025 Plenary. In addition to astronaut Vant, Mr. Akerstedt proposed that the four crewmembers of the Axiom 3 mission be considered for the award. Other constraints prevented Mr. Akerstedt from completing the revised formal nomination citation prior to the Plenary.

Mr. Neumann proposed that the delegates first vote on whether to award the Komarov Diploma for 2025, and then vote on the specific nomination for the Axiom 3 crew at a later date using an email vote once Mr. Akerstedt completes the nomination citation.

The vote to award the Komarov Diploma for 2025 was approved unanimously.

Mr. Neumann also noted that with the expected addition of the Robert H. Goddard Space Gold Medal to the FAI By Laws, there will be an opportunity to recognize spaceflight accomplishments by uncrewed missions.

[Subsequent to the Plenary, Mr. Akerstedt completed the Komarov Diploma nomination citation for the Axiom 3 crew. The nomination was provided to the delegates electronically on 26 March 2025 and was unanimously approved.]

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Annex 5 – Goddard Space Gold Medal Artwork

Annex 6- Review of WADA 2025 Anti-doping Protocols

Goddard Medal – The Robert H. Goddard Space Gold Medal is intended to be the companion medal to the Gagarin Medal for uncrewed spaceflight accomplishments. Mr. Neumann shared the artwork that would be used for the Goddard Medal.

Inquiry on Cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko – Due to the suspension of Russia from the FAI, Oleg Kononenko is not eligible to be considered for a world record or for awards recognizing what would have been a record for spaceflight duration of 1111 days. The Association of Space Explorers had advocated for recognition of the accomplishment. One proposal discussed by the delegates was to set a minimum requirements for the duration record of 1111 days. This would recognize the accomplishment and prevent a duration record of less than 1111 days from being set. Visa-Mattie commented that other commissions set minimum requirement for records and that he would monitor any record dossiers being submitted.

The delegates approved setting a minimum requirement of 1111 days for the duration record.

WADA Anti-doping Protocols - Mr. Neumann reported that the 2025 WADA anti-doping protocols had been provided to the Airsport Commission Presidents in September of 2024. As an international sports federation, the FAI adopted the WADA World Anti-Doping Code and has incorporated those obligations into the FAI Sporting Code General Section (para 4.4.2).

The group acknowledged that spaceflight is a challenging environment for the human body and introduces complexities for following normal sport anti-doping procedures. After a thorough discussion (see Annex 6), the sense of the group was that at this stage of development of spaceflight as an airsport, our obligation as a commission was simply to make competitors aware of FAI anti-doping procedures.

Education and Environmental Technical Commissions Liaisons – FAI President Principato requested each airsport commission appoint a liaison to the Education and Environmental Technical Commissions. Mr. Neumann reported that he appointed Dr. Narit Pidokrajt as ICARE liaison to the Education Technical Commission and Dr. Shelia Neumann as ICARE liaison to the Environmental Technical Commission. Dr. Pidokrajt and Dr. Neumann introduced themselves to the group and provided a summary of their background and experience.

ELECTIONS

Mr Neumann was nominated as the only candidate for President. The nomination was unanimously accepted by open ballot.

Mr Åkerstedt was nominated as the only candidate for Vice-President and secretary. The nomination was unanimously accepted by open ballot.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT ICARE MEETING

Plenary meeting in Q1-2026, TBD.

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