

CIAM Plenary Meeting 2015

Electronic Devices in Competitions (EDIC) Working Group Annual Report

The Working Group has been operating since January 2014 and has processed approvals for a number of Altimeter/Motor Run Timer (AMRT) used in F5J competitions. A list of approved devices posted on the CIAM website is updated whenever a new device is approved or an existing device has technical changes.

After an initial period of device evaluations, very few changes arose during the 2014 flying season. The beginning of 2015 has seen a new manufacturer submitting a device for evaluation, one manufacturer makes a significant internal design change, and another introduces a firmware revision. This has given the opportunity to establish procedures for addressing revisions of previously issued approvals.

Co-operation of the F5J device manufacturers is excellent.

The Working Group has been requested to produce a specification for altimeters for use in Space Modelling. The current specification as embodied in the Space Modelling Volume of the Sporting Code is lacking in the technical details required to undertake the design of a device. In some areas it does not accurately represent current practice.

Consultation with manufacturers has received a mixed response, some indicating that the CIAM requirement is not commercially attractive. Others have their own opinions on how devices should operate and be used. The manufacturer who has previously supplied devices for World Championship events has failed to respond to any correspondence.

From the responses received, useful information was gained. One manufacturer was helpful enough to carry out a technical investigation in order to advise on venting requirements, to ensure that an altimeter can accurately measure the external air pressure acting on a rocket.

Against this background a draft a specification has been prepared. This is currently under revision within the Working Group. There are technical issues to resolve before the draft can be circulated for wider discussion.

Eur Ing Paul Newell
Chairman FAI-CIAM EDIC Working Group

25 February 2015