



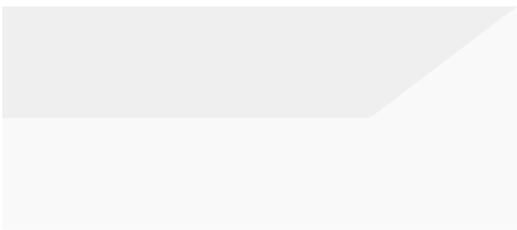
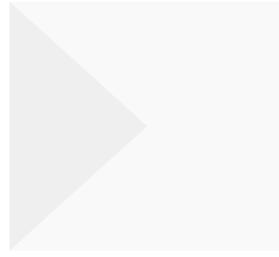
# FAI International Drones Conference and Expo

31 August - 2 September 2018  
Lausanne, Switzerland

[www.fai-dronesconference.org](http://www.fai-dronesconference.org)

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# ABOUT

## **FAI International Drones Conference and Expo**

The FAI International Drones Conference and Expo offers a unique platform for sports organisations, businesses, governmental authorities and end users from around the world to discuss how drones are used today, and create a framework for how they will be used in the future.

Part of the public EPFL (Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne) Drone Days 2018, the 2nd FAI International Drones Conference and Expo will run from August 31 to September 2, and will welcome expert speakers and visitors from around the world.

## **FAI**

The Fédération Aéronautique Internationale, FAI - The World Air Sports Federation, was founded in 1905. Recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), it is a non-governmental and non-profit-making organisation committed to furthering aeronautical and astronautical activities on an international level.

With more than 100 member countries, FAI is THE global organisation for the promotion of aeronautics, air sports, and recreational flying.

## **Drones**

A drone, or unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), is an aircraft or aerostat that does not carry a human. It can be remotely controlled by people, using either direct sight or a First Person View (FPV) headset. Alternatively, a drone can be autonomously controlled by an onboard hardware and/or software system.

# MISSION

Held at the EPFL Rolex Learning Center in Lausanne, Switzerland, the FAI International Drones Conference and Expo brings together top-level speakers, industry leaders and drone fans from around the world to share first-hand insights into the latest developments in the areas of innovation, safety and sports.



*FAI President  
Frits Brink*

# VISION

As the world governing body for all air sports, the FAI is responsible for the exciting world of drone sports. So as hundreds of thousands of people are caught up in their magic, the FAI will be at the heart of the action. With its history of promoting innovation, and its decades of competitive air sport and regulatory experience, the FAI is perfectly placed to lead the way in the development of drone sports. We believe that organising this international conference to enable stakeholders from across the drone universe to collaborate and learn from one another is an important part of that role.

The aim of the FAI International Drones Conference and Expo is to create greater understanding about how drones are, and could be, used by everyone from hobbyists to huge companies and top-flight drone racers, as well as how they affect the use of air space and our view on the world. So we were delighted with the success of the 1st FAI International Drones Conference and Expo in September 2017, which illustrated just how global a phenomenon drones have become.

As a world leader in drone technology, Switzerland's booming and innovative drone sector makes it an excellent location for a conference on all things drone. We were also fortunate to have the perfect venue, the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne - one of the world's best technological universities, on our doorstep.

Part of the EPFL Drone Days event, the 2017 FAI conference took place at its Rolex Learning Center. From safety issues, to cutting-edge technology and the evolution of drone sports, for an overview over the most recent developments in the world of drones, attendance was a must. The same is bound to be true of the 2018 conference, which will be held at the same venue and will also offer visitors the chance to try out drone flight simulators and experience the buzz of e-gaming.

Our organisation has more than a hundred years of experience in the governance of air sports, including the forerunner of drone sports: aeromodelling.

This well-established sport relies on the same concept - radio controlled or automatic flying with a battery-powered aircraft by pilots on the ground. It also comprises the largest part of the FAI's global air sports community: globally, an estimated 40 per cent of all air sports participants are involved in radio controlled flying.

However, with hundreds, if not thousands, of drone racing, sports and leisure events now taking place around the world, drone pilots have become a very significant group within the global aeromodelling community of FAI.

That's why we have been busy launching drone sports competitions such as the FAI Drone Racing World Cup, which has been running since 2016, and the FAI World Drone Racing Championships, taking place for the first time in 2018. The championships will be held from 31 October to 5 November in Shenzhen in China, and will be an incredible opportunity to showcase this thriving new sport to the world at the global hub for drone manufacture, responsible for around 70 per cent of all drones worldwide.

In 2019, a global FAI World Class Series of Drone Racing will also be launched to augment the FAI Drone Sports calendar. The incredible rate of growth in drone racing makes it a hugely exciting area within the air sports field.

But as with any fast-growing activity, the burgeoning popularity of drones and drone sports has created big challenges that need careful management.

These range from how to introduce thousands of new drone pilots to the regulations critical to maintaining safety in our skies, to how they will affect traditional air space users, both commercial and private.

The FAI and its national Member federations are already trusted partners of the authorities responsible for the safe organisation of air sports and recreational flying.

Looking forward, it is essential to stay up to date on the latest developments in this area and be aware of the challenges and opportunities presented as a result.

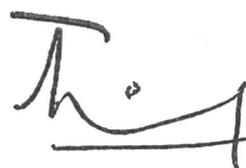
The FAI's long-term aim is to create a world where safe participation in air sports and recreational flying is available to everyone at reasonable cost.

Organising this annual conference is a significant step towards this, as we at the FAI recognise that drones are going to have a big impact on all air sports enthusiasts.

So I am very much looking forward to attending the event, and meeting people from all the communities with an interest in drones - whether that be for commercial, recreational or competitive reasons.

I hope to see you there!

FAI President  
Frits Brink



# COMMUNITIES

The growing popularity and myriad uses of drones mean they have big implications for everyone from multi-national businesses to recreational pilots.

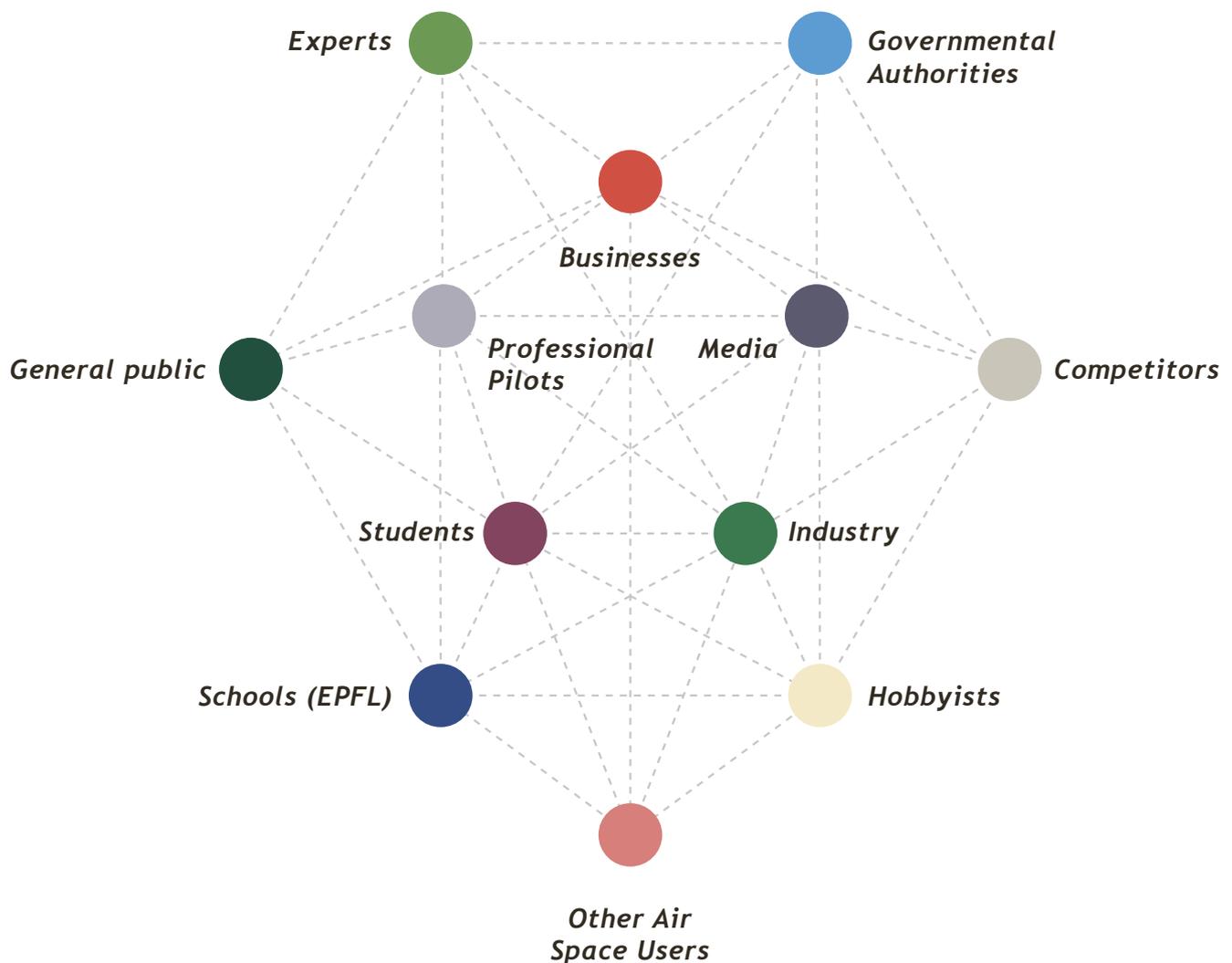
The aim of the FAI International Drones Conference and Expo is to bring all these communities together and allow them to share information, learn from each other, and gain exclusive insights into this global movement.

However, the Expo and drone racing competition that run concurrently with the conference also make it an event that appeals to anyone interested in robotics and actual flight. Groups represented by speakers at the 1st FAI International Drones Conference and Expo included: the European Aviation Safety Agency; Noosphere; The Institute for Drone Technology; Lufthansa; the Swiss eSports Association; the Swiss Federal Office of Civil Aviation; Freedom Drone Sports; NCCR Robotics; Aurora Flight Sciences; Post CH; and WeRobotics.

Their presentations touched on a huge range of topics, including urban transportation, public safety, data collection, drone racing, and eSports.

And those attending the event came from an even wider range of backgrounds.

As in 2017, the FAI expects attendees in 2018 to include professional, competitive and recreational drone pilots, government representatives, drone manufacturers, students, researchers, experts, school groups, the media, and representatives of businesses that can benefit from drones, as well as the general public.



# SPORTS



From grassroots through to elite level, drone sports are one of the fastest growing air sports.

And the first-person view (FPV) nature of drone sports, and increasing popularity of e-gaming, means fans from across the globe can use the Internet to get involved.

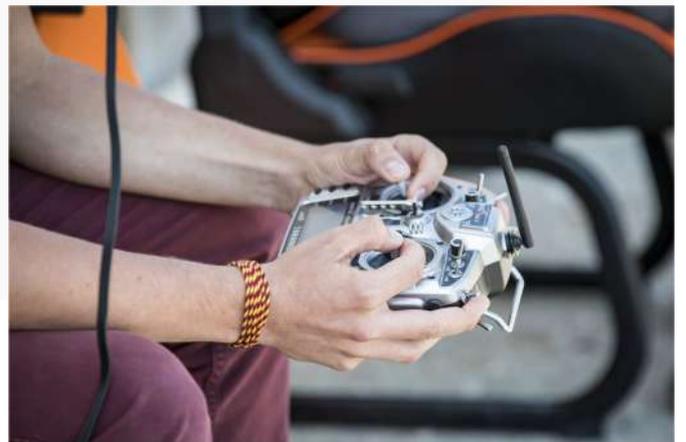
At present, racing is the most popular form of drone sport. However, new ways to fly drones competitively, including team-based sports, are also emerging.

These new formats will be one of the big Drones and Sports topics at the 2018 conference, where there will also be a focus on how the FAI connects drone fans at the grassroots level with the sport's top competitors, and how modern technology can be used to improve the spectator experience - sharing the thrills of the race with the audience through the use of telemetric data, replays, tracking, and FPV images.

Last but not least, the conference will include a first look at the still futuristic concept of multicopters large enough to carry the pilot, and thus function as a flying racing car.

Speakers on the Drones and Sports theme will include pilots, event organisers and representatives of air sports organisations from around the world, as well as FAI officials.

Visitors will also have the chance to experience the exhilaration of drone sports first hand - by attending the on-site FAI Drone Racing World Cup event organised by the Swiss Rotor Sports Association.



# SAFETY



The burgeoning popularity of drones for both commercial and recreational use has caused the number of drones in the sky to shoot up in recent years.

Consequently, one of the main challenges facing the global drone, traditional aviation, and air sports communities is how to safely integrate all these extra drones into an already crowded air space.

Attendees at the 2018 FAI International Drones Conference and Expo can therefore expect to hear lots about the regulatory framework being developed to ensure drones are used safely by both businesses and individuals, as well as the different types of technology that can help drone operators adhere to these rules.

Topics covered at last year's conference included the presentation of a completely new airspace concept, the challenges linked to using drones in long distance operations, such as the maintenance of railway lines, and the developments being made in safety-related technology such as anti-collision and tracking systems.

The 2018 edition of the conference will present the progress that has been made for accommodating this fledgling form of flying with all other existing aerial activities.

The conference will showcase the latest gadgets for end users to secure safe drone operation, and offer a platform for discussion of both government authorities' views on safety, and the economic opportunities arising out of drone developments.

The safety management of participants and spectators - imperative to successful drone sports event organisation - will also be included in the conference programme.



# INNOVATION



Drones are constantly developing, with new applications emerging all the time. Originally designed for military use, they are now an integral part of many industries. Modern day uses include surveying buildings, checking farmland, delivering parcels, and even rescuing people facing life-threatening emergencies such as floods.

Drones are also transforming how we spend our free time, with millions of people around the world using them to capture video footage and photographs.

Last year, presentations around this theme included absorbing speeches from industry leaders on how drones are being used in transport and logistics, for humanitarian needs, and to improve data analysis. There were also far-reaching discussions about how drones will be used in the future and are already changing our view on the world.

The second edition of the conference will highlight the progress that has been made in the area of innovation, for example with regard to personal transport and autonomous flying. Challenges such as energy management and endurance will also be discussed.





## EXPO

Research and innovation are the dominant themes of the Expo, with stands displaying and demonstrating the drones we can expect to see in the skies of the future, both small and large scale. The Expo combines temporary exhibits linked to the conference with those on show at the EPFL, many of which have a robotics focus. It also includes simulators that allow visitors to experience the excitement of flying drones for themselves.

## COMPETITION

The 2018 edition of the FAI International Drones Conference and Expo will include the 2018 SRSA cup, a competition organised by the Swiss Rotor Sports Association (SRSA), which will be part of the FAI Drone Racing World Cup series 2018.

As such it will attract the best pilots in the world and will provide a fantastic display of top-level drone racing, open to all those who attend the conference.

It also marks the FAI International Drones Conference and Expo as a truly unique event that combines the excitement of world-class drone racing with learned discussion AND fascinating exhibits.

## DRONEMASTERS

MeetUps connect nearly 4,000 experts and enthusiasts from business, science, society, and politics, who share their insights and ideas across all sectors to accelerate the evolution of the drone ecosystem.

DRONEMASTERS is an incubator focusing on automated aerial mobility and drones in all areas. Founded in 2015, DRONEMASTERS promotes sports as a driver of technological development. DRONEMASTERS has organised numerous cross-industry platforms around automated mobility, including conferences and meetups, which have attracted up to a hundred thousand people. In 2016, DRONEMASTERS invented the Dronathon, a 42,195 km drone marathon for commercial drones.

## SCHEDULE / PROGRAM

### FRIDAY 31 AUGUST

14:00-18:30	Conference Sports
19:00-20:30	DRONEMASTERS MeetUps

### SATURDAY 1 SEPTEMBER

9:00-18:00	Conference Safety
	Conference Innovation
19:30	Conference Dinner

### 31 AUGUST - 2 SEPTEMBER

| Expo and Drone Racing Competition



## EPFL DRONE DAYS

The 2nd FAI International Drones Conference and Expo will be part of EPFL Drone Days 2018. The event also includes three days of exhibitions and robotics demonstrations.

The EPFL (École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne) is a renowned engineering college, research institute and centre for excellence in robotics research and innovation.

A public institution founded in 1969, it covers disciplines ranging from Basic Sciences to Engineering and Architecture.

One of the world's leading technological universities, it also organises exciting scientific events, such as EPFL Drone Days, a three-day discovery showcase about the world of drones and drone technology.

## ROLEX LEARNING CENTER

The 2018 edition of the conference will be held at the EPFL Rolex Learning Center: a learning laboratory, library and international cultural centre designed by the internationally renowned Japanese Architect SANAA.

This innovative 20,000m<sup>2</sup> space offers a variety of amenities, including libraries, places of study, restaurants, and cafes - making it an ideal venue for an event of this kind.

Visitors can even try flying drones for the first time, either using a simulator or in a special flight zone.



## REGISTRATION FEES

Access to all Conference sessions and exhibition areas, coffee breaks and lunch, Welcome Reception, access to the drone racing competition and to the public EPFL Robotics Expo

REGULAR  
250 CHF

FAI / EPFL  
175 CHF

STUDENTS  
100 CHF

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