



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

Fifth victory for Switzerland at the 68th Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett

Metz, France, 9 September 2025 – **Switzerland's Team SUI-1, composed of Kurt Frieden and Pascal Witprächtiger, secured their fifth victory yesterday, 8 September, in the Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett, the FAI World Long Distance Gas Balloon Championship.**

The 68th edition of the race began on Friday 5 September, with **take-off from Metz, France**. After three challenging nights in the air, **Frieden and Witprächtiger landed on the banks of the Danube in Romania**, having flown the furthest distance from the launch site. Their winning flight covered **1,359.09 km in 2 days, 19 hours and 30 minutes**.

Second place was taken by the German team **GER-3, Benedict Munz and Matthias Schlegel**, with 1,258.93 km. Third place went to the French team **FRA-2, Eric Decellières and Benoît Havret**, who landed close behind with 1,257.55 km.

With their fifth win, Frieden and Witprächtiger confirmed their place as the most successful team in this year's competition. With more than three decades of experience and over 3,500 hours in gas balloons, they remain a **benchmark of precision and excellence in the sport**.

Every team in this year's race delivered a remarkable performance. Whether seasoned veterans or first-time competitors, **all braved difficult weather, long nights, and complex navigation challenges** to push the limits of distance ballooning.

Cathy Picard, President of the Organising Committee, said: *"We extend our gratitude to the volunteers, local partners, sponsors and the entire ballooning community whose dedication made this edition of the Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett an outstanding success."*

Results

- 1. SUI-1 Kurt Frieden / Pascal Witprächtiger**
2. GER-3 Benedict Munz / Matthias Schlegel
3. FRA-2 Eric Decellières and Benoît Havret

Editor's note

- Pictures and videos (free for editorial use, please credit)
 - [Launch day & images from pilots](#)
 - [Landing footage](#)
 - Note: Additional photos and videos, including material from the upcoming prize-giving ceremony on Saturday 13 September, will be available at the same link.
- [Provisional results](#)
- [TV launch highlights and other high-definition footage](#)
- [Event website & info](#)
- #GB25 #gasballooning #gordonbennett #faiballooning #airsports

About FAI

FAI, the World Air Sports Federation, is the world governing body for air sports and for certifying world aviation and space records. The FAI was founded in 1905 and is a non-governmental and non-profit-making organisation recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

FAI activities include Aerobatics, Aeromodelling, Airships, Amateur-Built and Experimental Aircraft, Balloons, Drones, Gliding, Hang Gliding, Helicopters, Manpowered Flying, Microlights, Parachuting, Paragliding, Paramotors, Power Flying and all other Aeronautic activities and Space records.

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For more details, please contact:

Faustine Carrera
FAI Communication Manager
0041 21 345 10 70
communication@fai.org

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