FAI's Flight Database Management System

- *What*
- *Why*
- *How*
- *When*

What…

- FAI has the opportunity to become the worldwide storage facility for digital flight data produced by GPS flight recorders or other devices, allowing FAI's APs to start downloading their flights into a single global database.

- A "database management system" (a special kind of software) then allows the stored data to be "mined" for different purposes

- Such "mining" purposes include:
  - real airspace occupation statistics by the different air sport disciplines
  - on-line performance rankings
  - research on:
    - environment,
    - flight safety,
    - atmosphere
    - "real world" pilot and aircraft behaviour and performance (models, UAVs and birds included…)
    - history of flying
  - any additional need for data retrieval as defined by future users

Why…

- Once established, the availability of comprehensive and easily accessible worldwide flight data is of great use to the global flying and research community, and of immense strategic value to FAI

- Other non-FAI entities have already begun to successfully offer local and international contests to Air sport Persons (AP's), showing the great potential offered by on-line contests for the promotion of air sports

How…

- After a long search process, FAI is partnering with the most experienced and successful team in the flight data visualization industry, Naviter from Slovenia (the "SeeYou" creators)

- In addition to their technical experience, the Naviter team has been selected because of their status and experience as active air sport people

- The partnering agreement essentially designates Naviter as the provider and manager of the technology platform for this project, while FAI provides the flight data gathering, ranking e-rules and a global network of FAI members

When…

- Public access should be available after March 31st, 2007, depending on initial user's comments and system upgrade proposals

- Full flight database management functionality is expected by January 1st, 2008, with further future system developments to be based on ASC's, NAC's and user's responses.

The future

To fully exploit the opportunity, this project will require:

- Project communication and collaboration with NACs

- ASCs e-contest rule making   (**_simple_** *rules, please !!)*

- Listening carefully to the initial users and let the system
  evolve accordingly

Final remarks

- First, **many thanks** to all FAI persons that already devoted much time and effort to reach this stage: **J.C. Weber, A. Casado, S. Torkelsen, Thierry Montigneaux** and many others.

- The project is provisionally called "Flight Database Management System", but a new, definitive name will be selected (Note: "ATMOS" selected after Conference.)

- It is **most important** to understand that:

  – This initiative does complement, **not** substitute current FAI activities, adding a new "e-FAI" dimension on the precious historic and actual FAI "raison d'être"

  – Its future development will be largely based on "learn-by-doing", a strategy adopted and followed by most successful and innovation-friendly entities