



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

Metz prepares for the 68th Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett launching on 5 September 2025

Lausanne, Switzerland, 2 September 2025 – **On 5 September 2025, the skies above Metz will provide the stage for the 68th Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett, the world's oldest and most prestigious gas balloon race. The launch will take place from the Plateau de Frescaty, a symbolic location with a rich aeronautical past.**

Established in 1906 by American newspaper magnate James Gordon Bennett Jr., this legendary competition challenges pilots to fly the longest possible distance without landing - a true test of strategy, endurance, and meteorological skill.

This year, **24 international crews** are expected to take off from Metz, representing some of the finest balloon pilots in the world. The race will be accompanied by a vibrant public programme designed to celebrate the 68th edition of this historic air race.

Event Overview

The Gordon Bennett race - the FAI World Long Distance Gas Balloon Championship - is the **ultimate challenge in lighter-than-air aviation**. Teams compete to fly hydrogen gas balloons as far as possible from the launch site, relying solely on their expertise in flight planning and meteorology.

This year's race will showcase not only fierce competition but also the rich cultural heritage of France. **Metz, a city renowned for its architectural beauty and vibrant history, has been chosen as the host site**, offering an exceptional backdrop for this world-class event.

*"Hosting the Gordon Bennett race is not only an honour for Metz, but a **unique opportunity to share our passion for ballooning with the public and showcase our region to the world.**"* said Cathy Picard, Chairwoman of the Organising Committee.

Programme

A series of exciting activities is planned to immerse participants and spectators in the spirit of the Gordon Bennett Race.

- 4 September 2025: Opening Ceremony (*accessible only for press, officials, and competitors*)
- 5 September 2025: Balloon Launch* (Race Day)

** 6 and 7 September are reserved as alternative launch dates in case of unsuitable weather.*

- 13 September 2025: Awards Ceremony (*accessible only for press, officials, and competitors*)

Editor's note

Journalists interested in covering the event are invited to apply for accreditation via the official website here: [Presse – Gordon Bennett 2025](#). Early registrations are highly recommended as space is limited.

- [Event website & info](#)
- [Pictures of past editions](#)
- Hashtags: #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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