



OSTIV – Newsletter 2025

Organisation Scientifique et Technique Internationale du Vol à Voile (OSTIV)
International Scientific and Technical Gliding Organisation
www.ostiv.org

Braunschweig, 31 December 2025

Dear OSTIV Members and Friends of Soaring!

This OSTIV Letter 2025 informs you about the activities of OSTIV during the last year. The Letter is organized as follows:

1. Status of OSTIV Board
2. OSTIV Journal “Technical Soaring”
3. News from OSTIV Panels
4. XXXVII OSTIV Congress in 2026

1. Status of OSTIV Board and Administration

OSTIV is directed by the Board. Presiding Board members are Prof. Dr. Rolf Radespiel (President) and Prof. Dr. Mark Maughmer (Vice President). Further Board members are Prof. Dr. John Bird, USA; Prof. Dr. Goetz Bramesfeld, Canada; Dr. Michael Greiner, Germany; Dr. Judah Milgram, USA; Richard Carlson, USA; Dr. Lukas Popelka, Czech Republic, and Murray Stimson, Australia. The members of the Board were elected during the OSTIV General Conference in 2024. Henrik Svensson, Sweden and Prof. em. Dr. Bruno Neininger, Switzerland are observers in Board meetings, since Henrik and Bruno co-chair the Training and Safety Panel, and the Metrology Panel of OSTIV, respectively. OSTIV Board meetings usually take place as telecons.

The OSTIV secretariat is located in Braunschweig. The postal address is:

OSTIV c/o TU Braunschweig
Institute of Fluid Mechanics
Hermann Blenk Str. 37
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Germany

The OSTIV secretariat is contacted via admin@ostiv.org . OSTIV financial administration is contacted via admin@ostiv.org as well. Rolf Radespiel takes care of most administrative matters.

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Communications with the members of OSTIV take place via email, including sending out membership invoices. Membership dues and other invoices can be paid using conventional bank transactions or with PayPal. The latter saves transaction fees in many cases.

Recent information and news on OSTIV activities are found on the website of OSTIV:

<https://ostiv.org>

There you will find details of recent and upcoming OSTIV Congresses, you will recognize previous OSTIV Awards, and you will be informed about news from the OSTIV Panels. Our OSTIV member Jannes Neumann maintains the OSTIV website. Please inform Jannes about information to be added to our website.

2. OSTIV Journal “Technical Soaring”

The Journal “Technical Soaring” (TS) is a peer reviewed online journal. The journal appears 4 times a year. TS issues are downloaded from

<http://journals.sfu.ca/ts/index.php/ts>

TS issues of the most recent 12 months are only accessible by login. This is a privilege of members only. Non-members can download TS from the 13th month after publishing.

Technical Soaring is led by the Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Kurt Sermeus. Kurt is an experienced aerospace engineer with a strong background in aerodynamics. The issue No. 2 of TS Vol. 48 has just been published. The next issues are in the final stages of editing.

Our Editor-in-Chief hopes to receive contributions to both, the new fast-track publication chain of TS, and to the more traditional, peer-reviewed track. The fast track is without peer review. It offers faster publication of e.g. technical notes, historical papers, and reports from conferences of interest to the technical sailplane and soaring community.

3. News from OSTIV Panels

The ***Sailplane Development Panel (SDP)***, chaired by Michael Greiner, had its last annual meeting on 3 Oct 2025 in Gatwick, UK. The meeting was held as a hybrid event, and around 27 engineers from 10 countries were present. Items discussed were:

- Collaboration between EASA and OSTIV related to certification and safety,
- SDP working group on Crashworthiness of Cockpits:
 - o development of a versatile spine shell for protecting pilots during hard landings and crashes
 - o International study on pilot injuries from glider accidents. The project is now in its online data collection phase. The invitation to participate in the anonymous data gathering was distributed to all relevant National Aero Clubs. A significant number of participants has already provided data. The survey will be open until 31 March 2025. Please connect to the survey via the web site of OSTIV, www.ostiv.org
- o Development of a Sailplane Crash Recorder
- Ageing gliders and structural life monitoring
- Stall warning
- Status of SDP group on electric propulsion

Please approach the Panel Chair, Michael Greiner via sdp@ostiv.org if you have particular interest in these SDP topics. The next SDP meeting will be held during the days of 16/17 May at the Rudniki airfield EPRU, Czestochowa, Poland, just before the OSTIV Congress 2026.

The **Training and Safety Panel (TSP)**, chaired by Richard Carlson and Henrik Svensson, met in a hybrid meeting in Alleburg, Sweden during 5-6 Oct 2025. The topics discussed during these days comprised

- Safety reports by TSP member countries
- Management of safety in gliding: Status reports for BGA, SSA, Canada, Sweden. The goal of future joint work on this topic is to identify the key elements of practical Safety II Management Systems and best practices of implementing and operating these systems.
- Failed launch fatalities

I am glad to report that OSTIV and the International Gliding Commission (IGC) of FAI collaborate closely on safety in international gliding competitions. ICG President Peter Eriksen has established the IGC-OSTIV Safety Group. The Safety Group works on three main dimensions of the problem:

- Assessment of severity and exposure of safety risks during international gliding competitions. This work has identified Mid-Air collision, low altitudes manoeuvres, pilot fitness, glider/pilot interaction, pilot workload as relevant topics. The Safety Group has set up a mitigation plan to reduce the accident risks associated with these topics.
- Assessment of the impact of competition rules and proposed rule changes on competition safety.
- Establishment of an effective Safety Management System for international gliding competitions.

The IGC-OSTIV Safety Group meets online once a month. Currently, OSTIV members Richard Carlson and Rolf Radespiel are contributing to the ongoing work of the Safety Group.

Please approach the Panel Chair Richard Carlson, rcarlson501@comcast.net , if you are interested to participate in the TSP of OSTIV.

The **Meteorological Panel (MET)** The Panel is jointly chaired by Prof. em. Dr. Bruno Neininger, Zurich University of Applied Sciences and Prof. Dr. John Bird, Texas University of El Paso. The initial goal is to consolidate the future mission of the Panel.

The MET Panel has met on 26-27 May in Winterthur, Switzerland. The discussions covered a wide range of topics:

- Relation of MET Panel to the other OSTIV Panels
- Future role of service providers in MET-Panel
- Objective quality control for forecasts for soaring weather. Is that a suitable and feasible task for the OSTIV MET-Panel?
- Interest in flight instrumentation
- Collaboration on WMO handbook
- Need to widen the international network of MET Panel
- Role that practitioners of gliding meteorology could play in the future MET Panel
- Future role of OSTIV in supporting meteorological expeditions

BN and Tobia Lezuo have attended two scientific Congresses during autumn 2025, in order to promote and widen future participation in the MET Panel. The next working meeting of the Panel is envisaged for March 2026.

Previous stakeholders of the Panel as well as new interested people are invited to participate in the process of defining future work areas. Please connect to bruno.neininger@metair.ch and jjbird@utep.edu to indicate your interest to participate in the process.

4. XXXVII OSTIV Congress

The next OSTIV Congress will take place from 18-22 May 2026 at the Rudniki airfield EPRU, Czestochowa, Poland, along with the 40th FAI World Gliding Championships 2026 (18m, 20m, Open). Meeting rooms have been secured at the PPHU Vigo Zygmunt Wychowaniec event venue which is located very close to the airport. OSTIV also offers an online means of Congress participation to those who are unable to travel. After the long lasting COVID pandemic, OSTIV supports the participation of student researchers by partial re-imbursement of the cost of travel tickets. There will be no Congress fees charged by OSTIV.

The Call for Abstracts was published early in October 2025, see our website www.ostiv.org. The Call has resulted in 42 accepted contributions from 7 countries. The high quality of the submitted abstracts promises an extremely fruitful technical and scientific exchange in the fields of sailplane development, training and safety, and soaring meteorology.

The OSTIV Congress is traditionally the right event to present the OSTIV Awards of the year 2026 to the most worthily individuals. The OSTIV Prize 2026 and the OSTIV Plaque and Klemperer Award will be bestowed during the Opening Ceremony on 18 May 2026, whereas we will present the Awards for the best Student Congress Contributions as part of the Closing Ceremony and Dinner on 22 May. We are looking forward to these exciting moments of our Congress.

The Board of OSTIV hopes that many OSTIV members will decide to join the Congress, and participate in the scientific and technical exchanges that this event will offer. We have recognized that hotels around Rudniki airfield (airport close to Czestochowa, Poland) already enjoy significant bookings for the time of the Congress, because of the 40th WGC running in parallel. Therefore, we recommend that you take care of your accommodation as soon as possible, if you plan to attend the Congress.

I would like to close this Newsletter by thanking all members and friends for their continuous support. Please stay connected to OSTIV. I wish all of you a great year 2026

Rolf Radespiel