

Lucerne, January 13th 2023/YB

Fédération Aéronautique Internationale
Mme Kamila VOKOUN HAJKOVA
Head of Admin & Members Manager
Maison du Sport International
Ave de Rhodanie 54
1007 Lausanne

Nomination for FAI Montgolfier Diploma 2023

Dear Mrs Vokoun Hajkova

Based on the Policies and Procedures for the FAI Awards 2023, we would like to submit the following nomination for your kind consideration:

FAI Award Category: Montgolfier Diploma

Nominee: Peter BLASER
Birthdate: 12th March 1944
Leiserenweg 6
3122 Kehrsatz



In the competition world, Peter was ahead of his time. Early on he saw the need of light weight equipment. Being a mechanical engineer, he made critical analyses of all the available systems and quickly identified the illogical over engineering of the balloons at that time. The forces they were built for could have never been even closely realized even under harsh conditions. He sought out U.S. balloonist and home builder Brian Boland to design and build his first light weight equipment. At the time the balloon shape was considered odd to the normal balloonist, many called it an egg cup. It was almost abstract compared to the natural shape balloon of the day. It however fit Peter's abstract mind and flying skills well. Because of the odd shape of this balloon, Peter was able to climb and descend stable at rates well above a thousand feet per minute which at that time was considered dangerous. That odd shape balloon is known in today's balloon competition world as the racer balloon.

The efforts that Peter put into the lightweight balloon went on. Firstly, he evolved the burner frame and the uprights, and then focused into burner performance. This time Peter turned to Paolo Bonanno to design a small powerful single burner. Peter Blaser quickly became the test bed for Paolo's burner design. This burner, several generations later, is now known as the Ultra Magic Power plus burner. After approaching the established balloon companies for decades without success to build him a lightweight balloon system, Ultra Magic finally agreed to build a system according to his specifications. The Explorer B series.

Through his company Blaser Swisslube, Peter was able to promote the sport of ballooning and camaraderie with his employees by developing a company balloon club. Anyone working for Blaser Swisslube could join the club and learn to fly. Today there are over 35 Blaser balloons flying in the club. He is also very generous and offered his balloons to several international competitors. Therefore, in the last World Championships the Blaser brand was very visible.

With Peter as the Pied Piper, many of the employees joined him in his goal to take ballooning to countries that had never seen a balloon such as Myanmar, Uzbekistan and Madagascar. He also frequently promoted the sport in other developing areas such as India, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Georgia and Armenia. These trips were well documented in the films and beautiful photographs that graced the books and the company calendar which is distributed in over 60 countries with more than 40'000 pieces from year to year.

Peter was also a competitor (2nd in the 11th European Championships, several times Swiss champion) and he was a founding member of the Swiss Ballooning federation.

In addition, he has ensured that ballooning is an ambassador for respectful interaction with the environment as well as people who encounter balloons, spreading smiles, joy, enthusiasm and unforgettable memories around the globe. Whether it was with the iconic Blaser balloon or the art balloon designed by one of the most famous Swiss artist, Bernhard Luginbühl.

Some notes of Bert: "I have known Peter Blaser for over 25 years. In that time, I have observed Peter's artistic mind, quiet demeanour, and magnetic personality while at the same time I watched how he quietly promoted the sport of ballooning in a way no one ever has before. Peter Blaser is a humble man. Through my eyes I have seen him help countless people inside the world of ballooning and outside the world of ballooning as well. Of all these people I am aware of, I am sure there are many hundreds more whose lives were touched by Peter Blaser. For this reason alone, I am proud to nominate Peter Blaser for the FAI Montgolfier Diploma."

While the name of his company is probably known to everybody in the sport, his name and contribution might not be so well known. But without his curiosity, his determination to improve the technology, his financial commitments to work with manufacturers and build prototypes, his thinking outside the box, his passionate contribution to the sport, today's light weight and competition balloons would not be where they are today.

Thanking you for your kind consideration in this matter, we remain with our very best regards.

AERO-CLUB OF SWITZERLAND



Yves Burkhardt
Secretary General



Heidi Brentini
Memberservices

Attachement:

- Nomination form and foto



FAI Awards for Ballooning 2023

Nomination Form

(one form per nomination)

Name of the Award:

- ☐ Montgolfier Diploma / best sporting performance in Gas Ballooning (By-Law 7.2.1.2.1)
- ☐ Montgolfier Diploma / best sporting performance in Hot Air Ballooning (By-Law 7.2.1.2.2)
- ☐ Montgolfier Diploma / best sporting performance in Roziere Ballooning (By-Law 7.2.1.2.3)
- ☒ Montgolfier Diploma / contribution to development of ballooning (By-Law 7.2.1.2.4)
- ☐ Santos-Dumont Gold Airship Medal (By-Law 7.2.2)

Submitted by:

NAC :Switzerland

Name :Yves Burkhardt

Position / Function :Secretary General

Date : January 13th 2023

Signature and stamp :  

Aero-Club of Switzerland

Head office

CH-6006 Lucerne

www.aeroclub.ch

Nomination for:

Name :Peter Blaser

Birthdate : 28. April 1945

E-mail address : m.blaser@blaser.com (Marc Blaser – Son)

Reasons for nomination (maximum 250 words, English only):

See separate letter for full text.

In short:

- Driver behind a lot of innovation for building light weight & competition balloons
- Ambassador for ballooning. First balloon flight in: Myanmar, Uzbekistan and Madagascar
- Ambassador for respectful interaction with the environment
- Constant supporter of the ballooning community.

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Please provide at least one high resolution picture of the nominated person, if possible taken while practicing his/her sport or beside his/her (model) aircraft.