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SILVERSTONE TO HOST THE NEXT WORLD AEROBATIC CHAMPIONSHIP

30 October 2007

Silverstone Circuit will host the next official FAI World Aerobatic Championship in 2009. This is the first time since 1986 that this most prestigious competition in the world of air sports has been held in the United Kingdom.

Flying Aces, the air sports rights management company, in partnership with the British Aerobatic Association, was awarded the rights to the event by the FAI, the world's official air sports federation, by voting ballot on Sunday, beating bids from the United States and Germany.

The World Championship, which is held every two years, will take place in August 2009 (dates to be confirmed) at Silverstone, which is known for hosting world-class motorsport events, including the FORMULA 1™ Santander British Grand Prix. The event will be televised internationally.

The World Aerobatic Championship includes two independent championship events: a classic unlimited aerobatic competition and a freestyle competition. The best pilots from around the world will be competing over British soil for the top title in air sports.

Richard Phillips, Managing Director of Silverstone Circuits Limited, said "Silverstone began its life as an airfield and we are proud to be building upon the venue's heritage by developing another dimension to our portfolio of top international motorsport competition. The World Aerobatic Championships is another example of an elite event that demonstrates Silverstone's leadership in the world of sport and entertainment."

Jeff Zaltman, Head of the Organising Committee and Managing Director of Flying Aces, said, "We are thrilled with the FAI's decision. This is another great example of the recent emergence of air sports as a new untapped property in the sporting world. The air sports segment is undergoing a revolution that will change the face of sport; and Silverstone's recognition of this potential – and the FAI's adoption of new venues – is evidence that air sports such as aerobatics are entering the mainstream. Fans at Silverstone are going to be treated to something very special."

Alan Cassidy, Chairman of the British Aerobatics Association, said, "Aerobatics is one of the most challenging forms of sport requiring both physical and mental determination in the most demanding conditions possible. Aerobatic pilots endure G-forces that would knock a normal person unconscious. We are excited about the opportunity to showcase our sport at a premier venue and to bring the World Championships home to Britain."

Sponsorship and hospitality packages for this unique event will become available soon. Please contact the organiser, Flying Aces, for more details.

About Flying Aces

Flying Aces Ltd, based in London UK owns, manages and exploits global media rights connected to top level aviation sport. Most of the Flying Aces property rights are fully developed in-house while others are managed on behalf of other rights holders. Flying Aces is also the organiser of the internationally-televised Aero GP air racing series and the new TV series "Air Sports World" which covers the range of official FAI Championships (broadcast on Sky Sports in the UK).

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About the British Aerobatic Association

The British Aerobatic Association, an affiliate of the Royal Aero Club, is the official governing body for British powered and gliding aerobatics. It is responsible for organising national and international sports competitions on behalf of the FAI and organises about 20 such events per year. It is also responsible for the promotion of aerobatic sports, safety and training within Britain.

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About Silverstone

Silverstone is one of the most famous and iconic international sports venues, focusing on top level motorsport. The Northamptonshire circuit boasts one of the fastest and most challenging race tracks in the world, hosting premium international and national events including the FORMULA 1™ British Grand Prix, FIA GT Championship, British Superbike Championship and many other race series' and corporate functions.

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About the FAI

The Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI), the world's air sports federation, was founded in 1905 and is the rights holder for all official international air sports events. It is a non-governmental and non-profit making international organisation which aims to promote aeronautical and astronautical activities worldwide. Ever growing, FAI is now an organisation of some 100 member countries.

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