



**PRESS RELEASE**  
For 14 October 2017

## **On this Day in History: 14 October Felix Baumgartner's record skydive from the edge of Space**

Lausanne, Switzerland, 11 October 2017 - **On this day in history: Felix Baumgartner jumped from the edge of Space setting three FAI world records in the process.**

Felix Baumgartner, an Austrian skydiver and pilot, set three major FAI world records on 14 October 2012, when he jumped from a balloon that had taken him to the edge of Space.

Baumgartner, who was 43 at the time of the record, set world records for free-fall distance and speed, as well as altitude.

The three FAI world records he set were:

1. Maximum Vertical Speed (without drogue): 1,357.6 km/h (equivalent to 843.6 mph / Mach 1.25)
2. Exit (jump) Altitude: 38,969.4m (equivalent to 127,852.4 feet) above mean sea level
3. Vertical Distance of Freefall (without drogue): 36,402.6 meters (equivalent to 119,431.1 feet)

All three records were verified by the FAI, World Air Sports Federation, which had a representative at the jump.

The jump from the edge of Space attracted a huge global audience when it was broadcast live online. Baumgartner also established a world first, becoming the first human to break the sound barrier without propulsion or protection.

Baumgartner ascended to his jump height suspended in a capsule below a huge gas balloon, launched from Roswell, New Mexico, USA. After reaching 39,000m he exited the balloon and went into free-fall for 4m:20secs. After deploying his parachute he then descended for a further 4m:43s, giving him a total jump duration of 9m:03s.

Baumgartner had been planning to make the jump for seven years, since first seriously examining the idea in 2005. A base jumper and experienced skydiver with over 2,500 jumps he wore a full pressure suit, similar to those used by astronauts, during the ascent and the jump.

The jump was not only a high profile stunt. Baumgartner's team gathered invaluable and unique data for the development of high-altitude parachute systems.

Immediately after landing, Baumgartner fell onto his knees and raised his arms in success. At a press conference immediately afterwards he said he had been "humbled" by the experience.

"Let me tell you - when I was standing there on top of the world, you become so humble. You don't think about breaking records anymore, you don't think about gaining scientific data - the only thing that you want is to come back alive."

Baumgartner's record jump was superseded on 24 October 2014 when Google computer scientist Alan Eustace jumped from a gas balloon at 41,422m. Unlike Baumgartner, who ascended in a capsule, Eustace hung from his gas balloon by a tether. When the time came for his release, he started his fall by using an explosive device to separate from the balloon.

## Notes for editors

> Record section on the FAI website:

[www.fai.org/records](http://www.fai.org/records)

> More on how the FAI records were established

[www.redbullstratos.com/science/aeronautical-records](http://www.redbullstratos.com/science/aeronautical-records)

> Photographs

[www.flickr.com/photos/airsports\\_fai/sets/72157630741562222](http://www.flickr.com/photos/airsports_fai/sets/72157630741562222)

> Official website

[www.felixbaumgartner.com](http://www.felixbaumgartner.com)

## About FAI

FAI, the World Air Sports Federation ([www.fai.org](http://www.fai.org)), 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 and Astronautic sporting activities.

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