

THERE is no pastime in which science, technique and sport are so closely interwoven as in soaring. Whilst in 1930 the "Internationale Studiencommission für den Motorlosen Flug", the ISTUS, was set up with the object of bringing into closer touch those countries which engaged in soaring and of furthering the development of soaring itself by the exchange of experiences and friendly cooperation, the "Organisation Scientifique et Technique du Vol à Voile", the OSTIV, which succeeded the ISTUS in 1948, embarked upon a wider task. Its objects are to encourage and co-ordinate internationally the science and technology of soaring and the development and the use of the sailplane in pure and applied research. The OSTIV is now the first international organization adopted by the "Fédération Aéronautique Internationale" (FAI) as an "associated member". It does not concern itself with records, certificates and competitions; these matters are looked after by the "Commission du Vol sans Moteur" of the latter organization.

A number of interesting problems are the subject of profound study by the scientific section of the OSTIV under the direction of Dr. A. Raspet (U.S.A.) and by the technical section of the OSTIV under the direction of Mr. W. F. Ledermann (Switzerland). In this connection I will only mention the problem of high altitude atmospheric flow phenomena, laminary boundary layer flow studies, the study of characteristics and performances of high-performance sailplanes (comparison of analytical and measured performances), as well as the problem of shell type construction.

The composition of the two sections is a guarantee that valuable results may be anticipated, results from which not only soaring itself will benefit, but that will also be in the interest of science and technique generally.

The object of the OSTIV Publications is to acquaint the scientific and technical world as well as the Aeroclubs engaged in soaring with the results achieved. By recording the lectures held in the framework of the OSTIV congresses, they further serve to encourage soaring pilots, men of science and technicians to carry out progressive work.

May this first modest publication, edited by the OSTIV itself, containing the lectures and the results of the comparison flight test, held within the framework of the 1950 OSTIV congress at Orebro, serve to promote the object described above.

The Hague, September 15th, 1951



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