2024 F1D World Championship Team Report

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The 2024 World Championship took place on March 23-26 in Salt Mine, Slănic - Prahova, Romania. The venue is a Category 4 site with maximum height of 56 meters. Quite a few World and European Championships have been held at this site since 1980s, including the 2022 World.

This time our Senior team was the same as in 2022 – Vlad Linardic, Arend Borst, and Dmytro Silin. Anna Silina and Christina Borst joined us as official helpers. Preparations went rather smoothly, everyone came well prepared. Last time we flew together was at the US Indoor National in 2023. After that only Vlad had a chance to practice in high ceiling venue – he went to the Salt Mine several times.

This year our team accomplished the goal of the last 6 years – we made it to the podium and took home bronze medals! Canada F1D team was on the podium last time in 1996 (bronze) and in 1988 and 1990 before that (silver both times). Then, there was a change of generations. The new full team was finally formed in 2017. The 2018 World was a disaster for us due to unexpected bad weather. The 2020 was cancelled due to COVID. In 2022 we tried to compete for the medals but came only 5th as a team. In 2024 all the efforts in building and flying finally paid off!

Yuan Kang Lee became Word Champion for the third time. Vlad, Arend and I finished 7, 11, and 12, respectively. We all bested our official high scores. I flew 25:16, Arend did 25:24, and Vlad had 26:33 – new Canadian F1D record for Category IV. Our team’s score improved since the last Championship by 9 minutes. Not only it allowed us to win the bronze, but also, we were much closer to the 2nd place (Romania) that the 4th (UK) team was close to us. Vlad came 7th and beat two Romanians flyers. If Arend and I had flew as much as Vlad – second team place would have been within reach.

One last thing about statistics. Look at the timetable - flights under one minute usually mean troubles with launch. Flights in the 5–10-minute range usually mean that model hung up at the very top. Vlad had hung up in the second round. I ran into the wall right under the catwalks in the 6th. Arend had two power stalls during the launch.

This year’s Championship didn’t show any significant advancements in the model design. One thing worth mentioning – whiskers on the propeller. They were made of 0.25mm carbon rod, had length about 50mm, and were installed only on one of the blades. The purpose of such a device is to push models away from the ceiling and the walls.

While there were no notable advancements in the models, the average flight time had increased by a minute or more. We have reached the limits of rubber and in model design. Now many people spend a lot of time on the extra fine trimming of their models. One time I heard that someone needed to increase propeller pitch by 0.5 degree. Vlad was advised to decrease his stabilizer incidence by 0.2-0.3mm because his model was too slow during middle stage of the climb.

What’s next? The 2026 World Championship was awarded to the USA. It will be held in the Kibbie Dome, Moscow, ID, USA. It’s a premium Category IV site with a maximum height of 44 meters. The 1996 World Championship took place in this dome. Our team knows this venue quite well. It has one interesting property. The air is quite still at altitudes below 35-40 meters. But, at 40 meters and above there is a strong air draft that we call “jet”. It appears due to uneven amount of sunlight coming through the east and west side windows. In the afternoon it changes direction to the opposite. This makes model steering challenging at high altitudes. Air movement in the Salt Mine is very slow, but the space is confined. In Kibbie Dome, on the contrary, there is plenty of space, but draft along the dome can be very strong.

The team trials for 2026 World will take place at 2025 Kibbie Dome Open. It’s an annual event that happens in July. Vlad and Arend intend to attend it this year as well. Edmund Liem, our 1996 team member, plans to return and compete for the team. Two European flyers are moving to Canada and will also run for the team. With such a strong competition we hope to have for 2026 World strongest Canadian team ever!

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| Place | Name | Country | Flight 1 | Flight 2 | Flight 3 | Flight 4 | Flight 5 | Flight 6 | Score |
| 1 | Yuan Kang Lee | USA | 24.22 | 25.21 | **29.41** | 28.06 | *28.57* | 25.33 | 58.38 |
| 2 | Brett Sanborn | W/C | 24.34 | 24.41 | **28.47** | 0 | *28.01* | 8.01 | 56.48 |
| 3 | Corneliu Mangalea | ROU | 26.34 | 25.26 | *28.1* | **28.21** | 25.21 | 0 | 56.31 |
| 7 | **Vladimir Linardic** | **CAN** | 24.14 | 8.53 | *26.01* | **26.33** | 25.38 | 25.12 | 52.34 |
| 11 | **Arend Borst** | **CAN** | *23.52* | 19.59 | 0.15 | 21.05 | **25.24** | 0.44 | 49.16 |
| 12 | **Dmytro Silin** | **CAN** | 20.2 | 21.53 | *22.15* | 22 | **25.16** | 9.46 | 47.31 |