



THE WINGED LION FLIES INTO THE LAST WEEK OF THE MISSION

The attempt at the first solo circumnavigation of the globe by a Czechoslovak pilot now enters the final phase. At noon tomorrow, Aviatik and partner of the JŠK law firm Roman Kramařík will begin the longest stretch over the water (Atlantic Ocean) from Halifax, Canada to the Azores. From there he will fly to the United Kingdom, Germany and on Saturday to Prague. So far he has already tripled the current Czech record for distance flight.

PRAGUE, 4 September – The hardest part comes last. This is an apt way to describe the week which awaits lawyer and aviator Roman Kramařík on his solo flight around the world. So far everything is going according to plan, and he is scheduled to land at Prague's Letňany Airport (LKLT) on Saturday, 8 September in the afternoon as part of the Letňany Airport Day with Czech Radio – Two.

Why the hardest? Because Kramařík will fly his Cessna P210N (OK-TGM) all the way from Halifax, Canada to the Azores, a distance of some 1,800 nautical miles.

He is scheduled to take off with a slight delay on Wednesday, 5 September, in the morning Czech time. Up-to-date information about whether he has taken off can be monitored on social networks. There was an area of low pressure on the flight path and associated bad weather. "If I hit bad weather that I can't fly through, I can't just turn around over the middle of the Atlantic and fly back against the wind," said Roman Kramařík. "That's why I'm waiting for weather that does not present even the slightest risk."

From the Azores he will continue to the United Kingdom, then to Germany and finally to Prague. Kramařík has so far been blessed with good luck on the mission, which he has undertaken, among other things, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Czechoslovakia. He himself stated in one of his reports that Saint Peter must have had his sleeves pulled off by his guardian angels, as they constantly want something from him.

During a mandatory 50-hour inspection in Thailand, Roman discovered he had a propeller damaged by a stone. He consulted the manufacturer, who assessed the damage as negligible, so he finally repaired the damage himself and continued on his way. That he did a good job was confirmed not only by the fact that the propeller withstood the next 50 hours, but also by the biggest American

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expert on this type of Cessna, Thomas Carr, who conducted a "major" 100-hour inspection of the plane. Now OK-TGM can embark on its flight across the Atlantic.

The longest stretch of the journey "over the water" will most likely begin on 5 September in the morning Czech time and should take around 11 hours. You can monitor the flight by clicking **FOLLOW ME** on the project website www.okridlenylev.cz and on Facebook and Twitter, where Roman will share his observations during the flight.

Audience with the Dalai Lama

The extraordinary nature of the Winged Lion's mission is also attested by the fact that Roman Kramařík had an audience with His Holiness the Dalai Lama. The discussion centred mainly around the legacy of Václav Havel. Roman Kramařík also met with many of his compatriots. In Boston he was welcomed at the airport by the grandson of Jan Antonín Baťa John Nash with his wife and other compatriots. In Chicago, on the occasion of his visit, one compatriot who established a foundation to support relations between the Czech Republic and the United States organised a gala reception at her residence in downtown Chicago (which, as we know, was once led by a mayor with Czech roots). In India, Kramařík visited a school for aeronautical mechanics who are learning on Czech aircraft and also met with representatives of Baťa, which most Indians (like many other nations) consider to be their own brand.

Record broken three times over

The whole route from Točná Airport to Letňany Airport was in an easterly direction, as the winds blow predominantly westwards and OK-TGM does not fly fast enough to overcome them. So, it is good to use natural air currents. All the trips made in this mission head east. There is also one very practical reason: to meet the conditions of the International Aviation Federation for a flight around the globe. The whole flight is supervised by the emeritus secretary of the Czech Aeroclub and by international judge Jiří Dodal, who, after the completion of the journey, will officially confirm the achievement on behalf of the World Air Sports Federation.

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According to his recordings, Kramařík and OK-TGM have already surpassed the existing Czech record in distance flight three times over. "First it was right at the start of the journey from Belgrade to Haifa (1,839 km), then in Japan when flying from Naha (ROAH) to Obihira (RJCB) (2,318.1 km), and finally during the flight from Seattle (KBFI) to Eastern Iowa (2,477.9 km)," Dodal said, adding that the validity of all flights will be confirmed upon Kramařík's return, according to the real flight records. The upcoming stage from Halifax to the Azores will be the fourth record.

"I would like to thank all of my kind partners who supported the project," Kramařík said "I also thank the contributors in the HitHit campaign. Those who chose the reward of having their name placed on the plane are also listed here, as well as the names of the children from the children's homes who sent me a picture. The names of those who contributed at the last minute have already been stuck onto the plane during maintenance in the USA. But most of all I want to thank my family," he added.

As Letňany Airport is an international airport, in case of interest in accreditation for the arrival of Roman Kramařík on Saturday, 8 September, please contact media coordinator Jiří Reichl.

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Information about the project can be found on the web and social networks:

<https://www.facebook.com/okridlenylev>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HhdvZNBhz8w>

<https://www.hit-hit.com/cs/project/5071/okridleny-lev>

<https://twitter.com/OkridlenyLev>

<https://www.instagram.com/miseokridlenylev>

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