



AVIATION FOR SCIENCE

BLACK CARBON POLLUTION RESEARCH MEDITERRANEAN 2017

New scientific research mission of Slovenian pilot

Portorož, 24.3.2017: Slovenian pilot, biologist and photograph Matevž Lenarčič took off from the Portorož airport on the Slovenian coast and flew to the Green Light World Flight 2017 mission. In the coming days, he will do more than 20,000 kilometres with the ultralight aeroplane Dynamic WT9.

He will carry out a number of measurements above the Mediterranean and the Alps to find out the quantity of black carbon and Saharan sand, brought by winds to the Alps. Lenarčič thus wants to create a realistic picture of the problem, which is very serious according to climatologists. The deposition of coloured particles on the surface of white snow and glaciers causes increased absorption of sunlight, heating, and accelerated melting. Alpine glaciers are a very important source

of drinking water and energy for the Central Europe. However, according to some pessimistic forecasts, they are in danger of disappearance due to pollution.

One year ago, Matevž Lenarčič successfully did 42,000 kilometres around the world, north of the Equator, in the same aeroplane. He measured the concentration of black carbon in the areas where there had been no similar measurements before. The general estimate was that the problem of black carbon is largely underestimated. The results of the research were presented at several conferences, including European Geophysical Union, American Association for Aerosol Research, and European Aerosol Conference.

More information: www.worldgreenflight.com

