



ICARUS Makes History: New Guinness World Record Set for the World's Largest Paper Airplane

At BolognaFiere, during WMF – We Make Future 2026, a team of engineering students from the University of Pisa, together with tech creator Jakidale, set a new Guinness World Record with a paper airplane measuring 20.04 meters (65.75 ft) in wingspan, 7 meters (23 ft) in length, and weighing 28.49 kilograms (62.8 lbs). The aircraft successfully flew 59 meters (193.6 ft), with the record officially certified by Guinness World Records adjudicator Lorenzo Veltri.

Bologna, June 26, 2026| History was made at WMF – We Make Future 2026 as **ICARUS officially set a new Guinness World Record** for the world's largest paper airplane. Measuring 20.04 meters (65.75 ft) in wingspan, 7 meters (23 ft) in length, and weighing 28.49 kilograms (62.8 lbs), the aircraft successfully completed the flight required for official certification, traveling 59 meters (193.6 ft) and surpassing the previous world record of 18.21 meters (59.7 ft), which had stood since 2013.

The achievement took place inside Hall 36 at BolognaFiere, during WMF – We Make Future 2026, the *International Trade Fair and Festival on Artificial Intelligence, Technology, and Digital Innovation*. The record was officially certified by Guinness World Records adjudicator Lorenzo Veltri, while the aircraft's dimensions were independently verified by engineer Vittorio Baraldi.

ICARUS was conceived and developed by a **team of engineering students from the University of Pisa**, working alongside Italian tech creator Jakidale. What began as an apparently impossible idea evolved into a genuine engineering challenge involving months of research, structural design, aerodynamic analysis, computational simulations, testing, and handcrafted construction.

"It all started with a few paper airplanes thrown between university classes, almost as a joke," the team said. "We were engineering students convinced that, with the right methodology, even a sheet of paper could become real engineering. Months of study, simulations, failures, and redesigns eventually led us to build this giant paper airplane and take back a world record that had belonged to Germany since 2013. Italians do it better."

Before building the record-breaking aircraft, the team successfully tested a 1:2.5 scale prototype featuring an 8-meter (26.2 ft) wingspan, validating the flight dynamics and engineering solutions that would later be applied to the full-scale model. The final aircraft was developed through an extensive technical process involving computational fluid dynamics (CFD) simulations, structural analysis, and aerodynamic studies focused on the interaction between the wing and canard configuration.

Reflecting on the project, Jakidale, one of ICARUS's earliest supporters, said:

"When I met the students from Pisa, I immediately fell in love with what sounded like a crazy idea: using nothing but paper, glue, and the same engineering principles applied to commercial aircraft wings to build something that had never existed before. A 20-meter paper airplane may seem



completely useless—and in many ways it is—but engineering moves forward by pushing boundaries simply for the sake of the challenge. For months we fought against humidity, structural limitations, aerodynamics, millimeters, and gravity. Watching it fly—and then crash into the columns at the end of the hall—proved that it's always worth trying to build the impossible."

The aircraft was made possible thanks to the support of the project's technical partners. Sappi supplied the paper used to build the airplane, while Bolton, manufacturer of Vinavil, provided the adhesive used during assembly.

The new Guinness World Record marks the culmination of a **project that combines engineering, science communication, craftsmanship, and imagination**. Born from the work of a group of university students, ICARUS became, before the audience at WMF, a tangible demonstration of what can happen when research, technical expertise, and the ambition to dream beyond conventional limits come together.

"The flight of ICARUS and this new Guinness World Record perfectly embody the spirit of WMF," said Cosmano Lombardo, Founder and CEO of Search On Media Group and creator of WMF. "Innovation is not only about digital technologies and artificial intelligence. It is also about craftsmanship, research, experimentation, and the willingness—especially among younger generations—to imagine what seems impossible and then work relentlessly to make it real."

WMF – We Make Future is conceived, produced, and organized by Search On Media Group. The event is held under the patronage of the European Commission, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI), the Emilia-Romagna Region, and the City of Bologna. WMF is supported by MAECI, the Italian Trade Agency (ITA), and the Emilia-Romagna Region, in partnership with Visit Emilia-Romagna, and in collaboration with BolognaFiere, CINECA, and the European Space Agency (ESA). The 2026 Main Sponsors are Philip Morris, Dell Technologies, and Intel.

WMF - We Make Future, is the largest International Trade Fair and Festival dedicated to Artificial Intelligence, Technology, and Digital Innovation.

From June 24 to 26, 2026, WMF returns to BolognaFiere (Italy) as a certified international event fully focused on the future of innovation. A global hub for the AI and tech ecosystem, WMF brings together each year the most advanced developments in artificial intelligence, digital and social innovation, alongside leading international companies, startups, scaleups, investors, institutions, universities, and non-profit organizations. With over 73,000 attendees from 90 countries in 2025, more than 700 exhibitors, 1,000+ speakers and guests from around the world, 2,800+ organized B2B meetings, and 3,000 startups and investors involved, WMF represents a unique convergence point for innovation-driven business and policy dialogue. Its partner network includes organizations managing a combined €1.5 trillion investment portfolio, €304+ billion in assets under management (AUM), \$72.8+ billion in funded transactions, and over 17,000 investment rounds, positioning WMF as a global benchmark event for the innovation economy.

Saudi Makes Future – The Largest AI Exhibition in the Middle East

Saudi Makes Future is the Saudi edition of WMF – We Make Future, a certified international trade fair and global platform for innovation, artificial intelligence, and emerging technologies. Developed through the collaboration between Search On Media Group, WMF – We Make Future, and PNG Saudi, the event will take place December 14–16, 2026, in Riyadh at the Riyadh International Convention & Exhibition Center. Building on WMF's vision, experience, and thematic architecture, Saudi Makes Future adapts the format to a strong AI-driven focus, structured across 14 strategic sectors exploring the impact of artificial intelligence on business, industry, society, and institutions. Aligned with Saudi Vision 2030, the event positions itself as an international platform for dialogue, cooperation, and development, designed for companies, startups, investors, and stakeholders seeking new opportunities for growth, training, and innovation in the Middle East and on a global scale.



We Make Future

The Business of Tomorrow

International B2B Trade Fair and Festival on
AI, Tech, and Digital Innovation

24 - 25 - 26 JUNE 2026 | BOLOGNAFIERE

Search On Media Group - Humans Leading Innovation Founded in 2004, Search On Media Group works to advance digital culture and innovation by managing professional communities, supporting knowledge-sharing initiatives, and delivering strategic and operational consulting through its Search On Consulting division, specializing in Digital Marketing and Digital Transformation for large organizations. From the expertise of Search On Media Group stem both the Event Agency Business Unit—responsible for organizing WMF and other proprietary and client events—and Hybrid.io, a flexible and customizable platform designed to manage online, hybrid, and on-site events.

Per informazioni e materiale

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