

AI thermals around EDFZ

by D-SVEN, glider pilot since 2016

Please read the instructions below to have a maximum of fun with this feature!

The following steps are required to install and make use of this scenario:

1. Install the custom scenery as well as the thermal-scenario as described in the repo's README.md
2. Start FlightGear at EDFZ (Mainz Finthen) in a glider of your choice (ASK-21 to be recommended)
3. Go to the menu bar (F10) → AI → AI Scenarios
4. Activate the scenario „Thermals around EDFZ“



Thermal activation

Pro tip: In FG's „mini-map“, every „Thermal cloud“ is visible as AI-Traffic!

Thermaling:

1. After the thermals have been activated, black thermal clouds appear in the sky around the airfield
2. Now launch your glider with a launching method of your choice (winch/aerotow)
3. After launch, retract the gear (if possible) and head to the nearest thermal cloud (might be behind you!)



Every „Thermal cloud“ in my scenario looks like this

Catching the thermal:

1. Once you are below the cloud the variometer in your instrument panel starts moving. The air around you is rising!
2. Decrease your speed (~80km/h with ASK-21) and start circling left or right
3. In the circle, keep a high bank angle of 30-50° and keep your speed low

The variometer is the most important instrument during thermaling





1. Pull the speed back 2. Keep the circles tight 3. Climb faster!

„Centering“ the thermal:

You can easily keep and increase your climb with a few corrections while circling.

1. When the thermal gets better throughout the turn, straighten up the glider and turn in again shortly afterwards
2. If the climb decreases, circle even tighter until the climb increases again, then straighten up
3. You may lose the entire thermal. You may find it again by flying into the wind for a moment

The higher you are, the better the climb!

Stick with the direction in which you started circling (e.g. right). You may lose the climb when changing directions!

Cross-country gliding from/to EDFZ:

The thermal scenario generates cloud streets in various directions.



Flights to EDRH Hoppsteadten-Weiersbach or EDRL Lachen-Speyerdorf are easily possible

*You may also use FlightGear's generic thermals on occasion:
Environment → Weather → Detailed Weather → Advanced Settings
Enable „Generate Thermals“
These lifts are usually quite weak and unreliable.*

CREDITS: Thanks to Thomas Polzer (D-ABBA) for the inspiration!