

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Space Culture – Public Engagement in Space through Culture (9)

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UNISTELLAR: THE LARGEST CITIZEN SCIENCE ASTRONOMY NETWORK FOR ALL OF US

Abstract

Unistellar eVscope's network, composed of 3000 digital telescopes, has begun. The revolutionary, light-amplifying, user-friendly telescope allow citizen astronomers to observe the universe, either from downtown or the countryside, in unprecedented clarity and detail. Thanks to our partnership with the SETI Institute, every eVscope user will also be able to join a global network of observers conducting coordinated, worldwide viewing campaigns under the aegis of professional astronomers.

Based on the success of our fundraising campaign (3,000 eVscopes sold to date) we believe that science can reap an immense harvest from continuous observations of the night sky using these eVscopes, which will be spread around the globe and able to conduct coordinated observations guided by scientists eager to study faint objects like asteroids. We have in fact identified several scientific areas where this enormous and unprecedented network of eVscopes could help provide answers to key scientific questions including the determination of the size, shape, multiplicity of asteroids by occultation, the characterization of Near-Earth Asteroids shortly after their detection, the study of Jupiter-sized exoplanets by transit and more transient events.

We have also initiated a program with informal education centers (museums, amateur astronomer clubs) as well as musicians, actors and other celebrities who want to develop a education or artistic project around the eVscope, featuring its potential. Like all eVscope users, they will experience the thrill of scientific discovery and be part of an active community of citizen astronomers.

The Unistellar Network will give people around the globe the chance to witness live, once-in-a-lifetime astronomical events through their eVscope eyepiece while they harvest crucial scientific data.