

Chairman's Award – Team 5665 SPARC

Team Number:

5665

Team Name, Corporate/University Sponsors:

Kent University/Gelişim University/Detay Soft/Ortosella/Mars Logistics/Hançar Robotics/SSARCH Architecture/Kumport / Kocaeli Industrial Foundation

1) Briefly describe the impact of the FIRST program on team participants with special emphasis on current the session and the preceding two to five years:

FIRST program has an enormous effect on our lives. Most of our team members are interested in obtaining a career in STEM field and studying for their dreams of becoming an engineer or a scientist. Furthermore, our 15 alumni team members participate in FIRST as a volunteer and study engineering at their universities. We have won scholarships from various universities in France.

2) Briefly describe the impact of the FIRST program on your community emphasis on current the session and the preceding two to five years:

FIRST program inspires children to become future engineers and scientists. And as a team we work accordingly to that. With our community projects we try to reach all over our country. We build a robotics lab in Kocaeli Public High school and in Kocaeli Dumlupınar Public High school with the donations of Kocaeli Industrial Foundation.

3) Describe the team's innovative or creative method to spread the FIRST message:

We have arranged 10 meetings and organised conferences to spread the STEM education to students and teachers in less advanced areas. Plus, we reached over 70.000.000 people via newspapers, radio programs and TV shows. Our alumni Alara Güler has been invited to a famous TV show to talk about FIRST, also Bahadır Can has been invited to TRT and talked about our future proposes as a team.

4) Describe examples of how your team members act as role models and inspire other FIRST team members to emulate:

Friendship and inspiration are two of our main mottos and according to that we try to be helpful to other teams in all the ways. We have prepared a meeting for rookie teams in our area and we have attempted to every single event that other teams have organized. All the other teams know that they can trust us and ask for help. We have numerous social media accounts so that the other teams can easily contact us. We shared our chairman's and entrepreneurship award submission along with our safety manual and a Turkish translation of 2018 game manual in our website.

5) Team's initiatives to help start or form other FIRST Robotics Competition teams:

We have formed teams 7134, 6989, 6416 and 7140. We are always at contact with them so that we can always help them. We make presentations about FRC in various schools and encourage them to start their own teams. We train their coaches so that they could be self-dependent in a short time.

6) Describe the team's initiatives to help start or form other FIRST teams (including Jr.FLL, FLL, & FTC):

We have formed 3 FLL teams and actively trained them. We helped with FLL coding so that our motto "Learn the good, teach the best" found its meaning again. We had a FLL and VEX workshop in our Maker Fair. We are the first team who opened VEX workshops in Turkey. We have started VEX workshops in Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir and Aydın.

7) Describe the team's initiatives on assisting other FIRST teams (including Jr.FLL, FLL & FTC) with progressing through the FIRST program:

We have shared our knowledge and our materials with various FLL teams. We contacted via social media with teams in case of a need. We created an application called "SCODE" for little kids especially for the ones that participate FLL or Jr.FLL. It's a simple app which provides

learning simple coding to kids by having fun. The Application has various spectrum of topics as space, animals, clothing and such. It has over 50.000 downloads in Google Play.

8) Describe how your team works with other FIRST teams to serve as mentors to younger or less experienced FIRST teams (includes Jr.FLL, FLL & FTC teams):

We trained FLL teams coaches so that they can teach their team and then their team will be able provide help and training to other kids and teams. With all of that we try to make “chain effect” which in the end will reach millions of people. We talk about FRC with FLL teams and tell them our stories.

9) Describe your Corporate/University Sponsors:

We have two university sponsors; Kent University provides us safety supplies and gives us first aid education and Gelişim University helped us during the building season for 2017 Off-Season. Kocaeli Industrial Foundation sponsored us to create the robotics laboratory. And our other corporate sponsors helped us with accommodation and provided help during the construction season.

10) Describe the strength of your partnership with your sponsors with special emphasis on the current season and the preceding two to five years:

We are a big family with our sponsors. We are always in contact and always invite them to our workshop. We give them our t-shirts and pins. And at the end of the process we organise a ceremony for them. We don't give plackets, but we give something more special than that. In their name we plant a tree in the forest and offer them its certificate. We believe that making donates for our world is much more important than plackets.

11) Describe how your team would explain what FIRST is to someone who has never heard of it:

FIRST is a program that teaches and helps kids not to be afraid of the future and to follow their dreams to become an engineer or a scientist. The program itself is about robots but it's also more than robots, also about realising the creativity and imagination in yourself. We were a bunch of kids who desired to be an engineer/scientist at the very start, but we really didn't think that it was just a dream that we can achieve, but of course it was before meeting FIRST and its programs. With the help of FIRST we have seen our potential and exposed it.

12) Briefly describe other matters of interest to FIRST Judges, if any:

Last season we were a joint team with 10 schools and over 50 students and we went to Orange County Regional. Lots of kids had the opportunity to see the competition. But with 50 students, most of the students couldn't participated enough so we decided to split up.

Team Captain/Student Representative that has double-checked this submission:

Batuhan Can