

## Chairman's Award - Team 4191

Print

Close

2019 - Team 4191

**Team Number**

4191

**Team Name, Corporate/University Sponsors**

Fikret Yüksel Foundation/AVL/Tekfen Holding/Turkish Education Foundation(TEV)/Solidworks/Catia/3M&TEV Inanc Turkes High School

**Briefly describe the impact of the *FIRST* program on team participants with special emphasis on the 2018/2019 year and the preceding two to five years**

FIRST brings us together and creates a common aim. FIRST competitions not only improve our communication and leadership skills; but also form our future. 2 former members of IMC has been Dean's List Finalists. Most of our alumni got acceptances from prestigious universities such as MIT and TU Delft with scholarships and founded robotics club in their universities, such as OzU Rover. Our alumni take part in FIRST events as supervisors, volunteers, and pioneers in organizing regionals in Turkey.

**Describe the impact of the *FIRST* program on your community with special emphasis on the 2018/2019 year and the preceding two to five years**

With the impact of the FIRST program, we learnt how to be Gracious Professional and how to cherish team spirit along with the technical information we used in FRC. These crucial skills helped us to become involved in our school's technical departments such as our school's IT and our drama club's technical department. Also the effect of our team spirit we gained from FIRST programs, cause our team members' being more successful when it comes to team work in their individual life.

**Team's innovative or creative method to spread the *FIRST* message**

We held meetings with Turkish universities (KOC & Sabanc?) aiming them to provide scholarship for FIRST alumni, gave presentations to technology companies and partnered with the Turkish Education Foundation to promote STEM. To spread FIRST among our peers, we reached 16M people via social media and raised our voice via Onedio, Youtube, etc. We wrote a storybook to inspire children which we distributed in many cities by traveling around the country with the FIRST spirit we carry in our hearts.

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

As the 4th team founded in Turkey, we're experienced enough to be a role model for others who are thinking FIRST is only about robotics. We help them to internalize FIRST values and the desire of inspiring others. We shared our experience via lessons, conferences & workshops; about safety, PR&robotics. Also, we point out gracious professionalism & team spirit during the events. Plus, because of China's internet restrictions we created a website which they can reach and learn about robotics & PR.

**Describe the team's initiatives to help start or form other FRC teams**

We supported the foundation of 10 FRC teams (#5665, #6430, #6697, #6614, #6579, #6534, #6390, #7070, #7600, #7611) by visiting them, inviting them to our school, guiding them about how they can form a team, build a robot, find sponsors and attend FRC. We organized workshops to encourage students to form their own FRC teams. We co-organized the 1st Kick-Off and 1st FRC Off-Season in Turkey with FYF and designed an FRC Rookie Guide for students who want to form a new team.

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

All of our members have been giving presentations in their hometowns and some schools were so inspired by our team that they wanted to be a part of the FIRST family. We've assisted 15, formed 9 FLL teams. Plus, we took kits to the eastern parts of Turkey and encouraged students to form their FLL&FLL Jr. teams. We also created one of the pioneer FTC teams of Turkey with which we're now working for bringing FTC to Turkey for the next season in cooperation with BKD, FIRST Representative of Turkey.

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

We organize workshops, presentations and Skype interviews with Turkish and foreign teams. We have assisted 15 FLL, 56 FRC teams so far. We distributed spare parts to the teams in need, helped them with their robots and codes. We were deemed worthy of the Gracious Professionalism award in Off-Season 2015 Turkey. We became a pioneer for FTC in Turkey by forming the first active Turkish team. Since we'll be experienced enough when FTC starts to be more common, we will be able to assist them easily.

**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, & FRC teams)**

In 2017, we formed an All Star team with 3 FRC teams and attended CRC in China representing our country. Also, last year we organized a STEM camp in collaboration with FLL and FRC teams of Diyarbakır Bahçeşehir. Plus, #2642 sent their RoboX Sumo kits to us so that we can distribute them to the kids in Turkey. We contacted different teams from various countries so that they could translate our books and distribute them in their country. #5987 from Israel helped us about forming a new FTC team.

**Describe your Corporate/University Sponsors**

Our school's foundation TEV, a competent partner to the powertrain and automotive industry AVL; construction and installation companies Tekfen and STFA support us financially. Also, Fikret Yüksel Foundation sustained us a grant for the registration fee with the help of Catia, 3M and Solid Works. 3Dörtgen, our filament supplier for 3D printer and Aytaç Rulman, a local shop for robot parts provide us material support.

**Describe the strength of your partnership with your sponsors with special emphasis on the 2018/2019 year and the preceding two to five years**

Turkcell constructed a Technology Laboratory for us, while HP provided laptops for students who can't afford. AVL supplies the registration fee of FRC regional, TEV supplies the accommodation fee and TEKFEEN supplies our plane tickets. They do not only help us financially but also visit us in our workshop to give advice. In order to keep our bonds strong, we meet with our sponsors in their own workplace, mention about each other in social media and display our robot to them every year.

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

FIRST is what unites different cultures, people from all around the world, creating a common purpose and forms a huge family from its mentors to alumni. FIRST helps us to figure out what to become, how to become and how to use the skills we learn. As well as it helps us to form our future path as teenagers, it also shapes the community that we live in. It never ends after the competition, it continues to be part of the people and becomes a lifestyle.

**Briefly describe other matters of interest to the *FIRST* judges, if any**

Our school is a boarding school for gifted students. All students come from different cities of Turkey with scholarships. Unfortunately, we've financial difficulties due to the economic crisis that Turkish Lira losing in value over USD. That's why, we lost our biggest sponsor and reached the rock bottom. However, we survived. As a student-based club, we found our sponsors by ourselves. Since we give importance to gender equality in every member selection, our club's 45% percent is female.

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

Oyku Disbudak

## Essay

### IMC's Journey to the Sun

#### Sandstorms

n. A strong wind carrying clouds of sand through the air which disables the vision & progress

Every big fire starts with a little sparkle. In 2007, a sparkle occurred from the robotics passion of 5 students whose curiosity was rising in the same campus where we're living today. First, they're surrounded by sandstorms which built walls of hardships that prevented them from seeing through & proceeding. They had no mentor, no material support, no money but obstacles to put out their sparkle. They constructed workspace, tiled walls and sold scraps to buy the required items. By applying for FLL tournament, their journey became the ascent of IMC which would change a lot of students' life in the future. This inspiring journey reached its milestone in 2012 with the participation in FRC, becoming 4th team founded in Turkey. Since then, it is a tradition for elder students to teach robotics to the news.

What the sandstorms left behind wasn't ruin, but a team born out of its ashes. It'd been more than a decade since the foundation of IMC, we've adorned the road to our dreams by achieving a lot. Along with improving ourselves each year, our robot was ranked in the first 8 in the championship & we chose our allies, becoming the first Turkish team to do so.

IMC is a growing family with 30 members consists of 14 girls & 16 boys. During selections, we welcome an equal number of people from all genders & cherish the FIRST core values by choosing people who can cooperate.

#### Placing Our Cargoes

n. goods carried by ship or another large vehicle

Our projects are our cargoes we deliver to have an impact on people's lives. Like an octopus who has many arms, we've been boosting the idea of FIRST in many areas such as education, health & nature and gender equality by taking off our cargoes.

#### Education

With few orientations towards STEM in Turkey, IMC aims to create new fields. First, we focused on children worldwide & wrote a storybook about a boy -Alican- having a dream of attending competitions with his robotics club despite the poor sources. Plus, we've written one that has a female main character -Ela- to inspire girls. Alican & Ela's Robotics Journey were translated into 10 languages, vocalized for children with sight disabilities and Arabic version was distributed to Syrian refugee kids in Turkey. We shared our books with children to make them believe in their potentials. We presented our books & robot to Syrian children at Red Crescent. After seeing their interest, we started to form FLL teams together to incorporate them in amazing robotics world that FIRST has created.

With "Hit the Road IMC" project; we traveled 1570 km, visited southeast of Turkey where education rate is the lowest and organized "STEM Faire". We organized a 2-day long camp to 1600 children including 862 girls in 7 schools which caused them to change their future dreams. We expanded our project other regions as Aegean & Mediterranean; we formed 4 FLL teams, having 2 different cities met with FIRST first time.

A teacher from Giresun who saw the news about our Chairman's Award on WebTekno, wrote us to organize camp there, telling that we're their inspiration. We organized a 3 day-long event which opened the doors of FIRST to 1530 children & 28 teachers. In 3 days, not only did we give lessons to children, but also had a conference for teachers on the integration of STEM in lessons.

Meeting with STEM has no age; we gave presentations about our team & FIRST to people of different ages at prestigious occasions such as Future Tellers & STFA's New Year Organization.

Having members from different cities, IMC's been able to reach lots of people in many places via presentations. We give weekly robotics lessons through a local education project, visit schools for Syrian refugee children and give presentations to Science & Art Centers for them to realize their orientation towards STEM. We gave coding & electronics lessons through our YouTube channel to prove that no matter where we're, we support robotics lovers who want to learn more.

#### Nature & Health

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Technology's now a solution to sustainability & public health issues. Since FRC teams consume so much energy & CO2 emission during seasons, IMC aimed to create awareness & take the necessary precautions for the FRC family with Carbon Footprint Project. We calculated the carbon emissions of 76 FRC teams around the world, informed them about their carbon footprints & assisted them with the possible solutions aiming to reduce emissions. Finally, we created an FRC forest by planting trees for each team.

Since the love of nature should be given in early ages, we focused on raising children's awareness by creating an app on growing up trees. We contacted 8 nurseries to promote taking care of trees while having fun by using our app. We also care for the disabled fraction of society. In collaboration with Robotel, a foundation that helps children with Amniotic Band Syndrome, we printed 3D model hands. With the "Give World A Helping Hand" project, we showed the power of technology & innovation, making another part of our community become familiar with FIRST. Since human waste could be reduced, we tried to prevent waste by collecting remained food in Istanbul Regional and distributed them to people and animals in need.

### Gender Equality

"Half of the people that ought to be in FIRST happen to be young women." Dean Kamen's quote from 2015 Championship was a task for us in which we aim to deliver our cargoes about gender equality. As IMC, we wrote a female version of our book called to encourage young girls to participate STEM.

Since high school is crucial for people to decide their job, our second attempt was to inspire girls to take action with FIRST & find their future. We gave presentations in schools for girls in different regions of Turkey & start forming FRC teams with them. We helped Team 7070 -consisting only girls- to be formed.

Also, aiming to inspire girls with role models, we created "Girls in STEM" website which connects FIRST alumnae & women in the STEM with young girls and gives them an opportunity to satisfy their curiosity by sharing. In addition, we emphasized on women's ability to participate in STEM-related field by showing our robot at Women in Technology Summit. Last year, engineer women from Sedefteki ?nciler program came to our school. In cooperation with them, girls in our team visited numerous schools to tell their experiences to encourage girls.

### National

To draw the attention of young people to FIRST, we contacted YouTubers & famous bloggers around Turkey and had our team's photos posted by popular Twitter users. Totally, we reached nearly 16 M people via social media, printed & web news, TV & radio.

To engage the FIRST community, we've assisted 56 FRC & 14 FLL teams globally & formed 4 FLL teams in Turkey. To spread FIRST, we've been hosting volunteer training for 3 years, because of the high amount of volunteer from our school which increases each year.

### Global

Since taking the robotics to an international level is the key to have more people in this inspiring world, we left our habitat to boost FIRST in Europe. Our 1st movement was to register. Turkish Off-Season to the European Robotics as the only Turkish event.

Secondly, we gave an interactive presentation to teachers from 5 different European countries, resulting in them inviting us to their countries to form FLL teams. We started making plans to visit them.

2 years ago, during CRC in China, we assisted 34 teams. After traveling 7963 km, our following step was to create a channel in Bili Bili for China where there are many rookie teams with internet restrictions to reach YouTube. We also created a website [imchina.tevitel.org](http://imchina.tevitel.org) that can be displayed in China. It's been viewed by more than 4500 people. In collaboration with Chinese teams & Event Manager Min Zhang, our international bond has been getting stronger with videos & guides that we have been uploading.

With the help of our former team member who is now a student at United World College Armenia, we formed Armenia's first FRC team. In collaboration with UWC India, we distributed our books.

As the first active FTC team of Turkey, this year, we decided to form a Turkish All-Star team aiming to get more Turkish schools involved in FTC despite the economic crisis. In this context, we will participate in Romania FTC Championship in April as the first Turkish team that competes in order to become an inspiration for our country. We also got in contact with BKD (FIRST Representative of Turkey) to bring FTC event to Turkey next season and continue our work for bringing FTC Championship to Turkey.

### Launch

v. Send a spacecraft etc on its course

While IMC is delivering its cargoes to other lives, our sponsors have a big place in our rockets to launch. Their financial & mental support is the fuel of our ship. We've introduced FIRST to the CEOs of Turkcell, AVL, Samsung, Tekfen & STFA. HP provided laptops, Turkcell constructed a Technology Laboratory for us and organized a press conference at our school to introduce FIRST to people.

This season started with obstacles for us due to Turkish economic crisis. Most of our sponsors couldn't afford to finance us which showed us obstacles may occur at any point in life, but you let them stop you or not. As a large family, our team spirit lets us overcome the obstacles. Our core values are our rocket's tiles that protect our cargoes during delivery in space.

Our dreams & hard work at the light of the FIRST spirit led us to this moment in which we're no longer hoping to make a difference. As IMC, more than a team, we're building the future with all these differences that we are and will be creating forever. We began this road as a little planet which was a prisoner of sandstorms on its surface and now, we're the Sun which enlightens the whole solar system. Our aim is to make the same for the whole universe.