

## Chairman's Award - Team 6025

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2018 - Team 6025

**Team Number**

6025

**Team Name, Corporate/University Sponsors**

Bahcesehir Anatolian Highschool

**Briefly describe the impact of the *FIRST* program on team participants with special emphasis on the 2017/2018 year and the preceding two to five years**

The great impact of FIRST can be seen on our team members, gravitating our future towards a STEM based academic life. Our team members are adorned with constant training and real-life experience thus the team has 5 pending and 3 confirmed patents. The effects also extend to our alumni and mentors to who received leading roles in STEM related activities and received internships from prestigious facilities. They are studying with full scholarship(250,000\$) in the most prestigious universities.

**Describe the impact of the *FIRST* program on your community with special emphasis on the 2017/2018 year and the preceding two to five years**

We see ourselves as a universal team that acknowledges the fact that centralization is necessary. Starting from our most familiar community, we have either formed or helped form FRC teams in more than 8 cities of Turkey and aim to form a FRC team in every single city in Turkey. With our contributions robotics has become a household name with appearing on both visual and printed media many times such by saving a puppy from a pipe reaching over 20,000,000 people.

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

We use FIRST as an integrative factor to reach people from all ages. From varying cities of our country to a small town in the Alps (Italy), "AA Camps" reached the lives of many students from many places. Starting with our community we organized the first "Ladies in FIRST" meeting. We also met with kids in our facility to inspire them about engineering also keeping in mind our guests(refugees) "Robotics 101" allowed us to spread FIRST to the youngest members all while neglecting discrimination.

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

Team 6025 believes achieving is only possible when together, like our well-established relations and collaborated projects with our sister team 3646. We carry out the values of FIRST such as GP®, respectfulness, honesty we adopt the idea of helping other teams, cooperative engineering with teams we formed or encouraged. Such as, Team 6999 from Sinop started their own FLL program in their community just like the team 7012(first Italian FRC team) strives to build a new community in their country.

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

Last summer Team 6025 embarked on a journey called the "AA Turkey Camp". We went 2300 miles, reached 7 cities and formed 6 rookie FRC teams. One of the team is 6999 from Sinop which we covered the expenses of accommodation and registration for this season. Then we broke out of the ordinary, we traveled all the way to the Alps in order to form the first Italian FRC team by doing this we created the first Italian FRC community. This team was signed up for 2018 season.

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

Our facility has 4 FLL laboratories for 9th grade students. Each year we form, observe, mentor and coach 4 new FLL teams by having 40 students. We are volunteering in all qualifiers to help tournaments to happen. We organize our own unofficial Lego tournament to get kids familiar with FIRST and prepare them for the season. With 3646 we started Jr. FLL program in our country and hosted fairs for last 2 years.

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

Team 6025 is devoted to the fact that the advancement of a country can only be accomplished if the concept of STEM is introduced at a young age, so the team is mentoring 43 FLL and 9 Jr.FLL teams. Since most of the team members are also chosen among former FLL participants and AA's 40% of projects comes from their FLL times, the team cares greatly about mentoring FLL teams for both recruiting new members and powering up their creativity.

**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)**

With a motto like "Together To Achieve More" cooperation is inevitable. That is why we try to reach out to any teams possible to provide help for those in need. In collaboration with Integra we are mentoring 3 teams which are living in a rural part of Turkey(Diyarbakır, Bursa, Edirne). With the Israeli team Galaxia we created a website named "Rookie Alliance Website" which consists of videos regarding electronics, mechanics, awards and themes associated with business.

**Describe your Corporate/University Sponsors**

Bahcesehir University/Northern Iowa University AA relies on its sponsors for the sustainability of the team and its projects. AA tries to stick to this objective since there is a slight risk of Turkey approaching a financial crisis. Our University sponsors are Bahcesehir University, for financial support and project development also University of Northern Iowa for accommodation. Lastly, Voonka gave us financial support and also helped us improve our project regarding the nutrient expiring date.

**Describe the strength of your partnership with your sponsors with special emphasis on the 2017/2018 year and the preceding two to five years**

Keeping in touch with the sponsors enables us to establish long lasting symbiotic relationships. For example, after some discussions we have developed a product for our sponsor which will be sold in the near future. In order to have our sponsors experience the same excitement as we do, we constantly inform them what their precious sustenance has accomplished. Prior to that we organize Annual Sponsors Day at the end of each season to thank them for their support to us.

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

FIRST is a foundation that works for a better future. It realizes that the only viable path is one comprised of science and reasoning. Thus, it transfers this knowledge to the children who are the embodiment of future itself. It achieves this mission by organizing events where children find the joy of creating, along the way obtaining priceless values they will use in their lifetime. Though right now it may seem like its only changing lives, on the long run, it is changing the world.

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

Team 6025 believes that inspiration only multiplies. This is why we spend so much resources and time into forming new teams around the country and the globe. To inspire those who are in dire need of inspiration. Right now, we are being the leaders in movement unseen by any. We are branching out and becoming an enterprise which seeks to invent the tools which will be used to change the world. One team may not be enough to do so. But one team can form another, another and another...

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

Ece Özoğlu

## Essay

6025 Adroit Androids (AA), a team living by their motto "Together to Achieve More", focuses on inspiring everyone to involve in STEM related activities, spreading the word of FIRST, sharing experiences and knowledge and raising self-awareness. A team with a background that can be related to 3 seasons of FIRST.

### Stronghold Era: Dawn of the Adroit

AA's history began on 2015 with 7 students who came together to continue their FIRST journey. Though the school was against forming a new team since they didn't have any expectations, just three years after AA became the leading team with the title of "First Turkish team that won an award at the World Championship". Just as the season castles were to be conquered. Conquering is only possible with a well-structured army. Thus AA is divided into two divisions; Engineering and Business with sub-branches of Mechanics, Programming&Electronics; Public Relations, Award Team and Project Management. After that, relations are prioritized for efficiency and well-being. With core values making the backbone of our rules and behaviors; respectfulness, good citizenship, honesty and coopertition is apparent in each team member. The boulders once in our path, we used them to conquer the castles. We stepped out of the dark ages and raised our banners.

### SteamWorks Era: Progression, Innovation, Inspiration

As we opened our eyes to a new age the worry of continuity had ended and development begun. With a recruitment system created to sustain the team; we built an alumni network which helps us recruit alumni of the team as mentors, extending their FIRST journey. As 80% of our alumni being undergraduate engineers and %100 studying on STEM related areas, all of our future mentors are sufficient in everything FIRST. Our alumni's career choices are a result of their FIRST experience. On a survey applied to our team members last year, students unsure of their career choices were 70% in the beginning, 30% during, and 0% at the end of the season.

These numbers show how we use FIRST as an integrative factor, changing our and others lives. Starting with our community's problems we created an online form called "Solutions for Daily Headaches" to solve any problem a person encounters throughout the day and we helped them by offering simple mechanical solutions regardless of its size. Once this form started to grab attention, we monetized it and raised a small source of funds. While dealing with simple problems we began to look forward to the problems of our community, nation and at last global ones. Thus, from a pet in need of help to global crises, AA was determined to make difference using creative engineering.

Starting from our community, after donating some of our funds to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation, we created a device that can diagnose breast cancer with a 630 nm light wavelength for only 2\$ and donated it, since mammography is an excruciating process both physically and economically in our country. After seeing how to give a new life using engineering we developed the "Neuromotion" technology, which lets paralyzed individuals realize their intended movement using Arduino. We donated this technology to the "Turkish Spinal Paralysis Foundation" alongside the "Electrical Wheelchair" we designed where we use leftover parts to upgrade a regular wheelchair into an electric one. We are currently trying to realize it on nation-wide scale by mass production. These nation-wide projects help us to get governmental funds. In one of them we use RC planes on early disaster alerts, to secure our borders, prevent human trafficking, illegal hunting and control refugee passages. Large-sized projects like this helps us in our way of creating change using engineering. However there were instances where small actions had colossal impact. One of these incidents happened when one of the alumni mentioned us the news of a puppy that had fallen into a 135 feet artesian well and was stuck in there for 11 days, during our build season last year. We quickly took action. Using the parts taken down from our robot, in collaboration with our sister team Integra (#3646), we engineered a robotic arm in just three hours to help save the puppy. Our attempts received an interminable support, reaching over 20,000,000 people through all sources of media. We were even invited and visited by the dean of the mechatronics department of the Stanford University. This incident truly showed how FIRST programs can turn ordinary students into life savers. These projects were what gave life to our "Industrial Revolution", as in Steamworks.

Then we realized: AA is an airship. Our members are the crew. Our projects are our gears. Our fuel is engineering. The future is the sky. And our ship can only fly when all of these are complete.

### Power-Up Era: The Big Picture

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The Industrial Revolution cannot be succeeded by ourselves alone but, as we all believe in, TOGETHER. To do so, we must lit the fires of inspiration in others and let them become ourselves or even better. As a team, we see FIRST as an ideology for the many things we gained from it. Thus, while we are trying to extend the young community, mentoring 43 FLL and 9 Jr.FLL teams we also carry out projects to introduce the young population with engineering early on. Jr.FLL is the "Big Bang" stage of the FIRST community. And this stage continues with FLL; where thought is turned into reality. For instance, an FLL project called "Smart Tag", which gives the consumer information about the preferred storage of the product, just in the thinking process 6 years ago, is now developed, patented, mass produced and being marketed by AA. One of our largest-scale projects coming from an FLL project shows what children can achieve when they are introduced with engineering at a young age. Thus AA tries to plant the seed of engineering to the younger population early on. For instance, we invited kids around Istanbul to our school for our "My Imaginary Robot" project. We asked them to draw the robot of their dreams on a piece of paper and printed out the drawings using our CNC machines. We knew the goal of inspiring was achieved when we saw their shiny eyes. Though helping the children around us is important, there are many more children living in misery that need our help. To lead them to a path of science, we met with Syrian kids, introduced them to FIRST and built a robot together in our "Robotics 101" project. We are currently evolving these projects with plans of traveling to Syria at hand. After seeing the extents of our reach early on, we knew we could make a difference in the big picture. With this goal in the summer of our rookie year, we embarked upon a journey called "AA Turkey Camp". This aimed to spread the FIRST message into bigger masses, While 14 teams had competed in our rookie year, and this year 54 teams were hosted in the Turkish Off-Season. 8 of them including SRT, which is the first all-girls FRC team in Turkey, either got encouraged (Imperium, AG Robotics, 4th Dimension, Kalsedon, SRT, Tornado, HisarRavens) by our AA Camps or were directly formed by us (B.E.S.T, Odrinias, BatX, Astralis). We strive for the success and the continuity of these teams so much that we even covered all of B.E.S.T's expenses (20,000\$) for the Iowa regional competition and help them kick start their own FLL program. These teams all won awards in their regional event with some of them (4th Dimension, HisarRavens, Odrinias) winning awards in the World Championships. While we were the first Turkish award winning team in WCS the previous year, 3 of our guided teams were now with the same title. After the "AA Turkey Camp" we realized how the Turkish FRC community grew exponentially. While we could help every rookie team directly this couldn't be the case anymore. This, coupled with the limited Turkish resources, we created our "portAAI" website. In this website we provide rookie teams with all basic information they will need, from awards to programming, in the form of short to medium length videos. Thanks to portAAI and our caring attitude %80 of the teams choose us on the Gracious Survey done in the 2016 Turkish Off-Season. We also have the largest number of volunteers in FIRST events along with our sister Team #3646. In three years we do not only help to create but reach out to our national FIRST community.

Yet, our reach was not only limited to our homeland. Last summer our hands stretched to the FLL community in Europe where we formed the first Italian FRC team, Rainerum Robotics. By doing so we created an Italian FRC community; we provided them with all the required tools, we covered all of their expenses (10.000\$) to compete at the Istanbul Regional Event. We even invited the members of this team to our "Future Team" which is a maker team, hoping to find solutions to the problems of future today, made out of FRC members from all different teams and well-known investors. In recruiting of this "Future Team" gender equality was top priority. We wanted to show the world how women had just as much of a role in creating a better world as men do. To furthermore this notion, we organized the first "Ladies in FIRST" event where we invited engineer women leading in their field to inspire girls from our community. We try to increase the number of girls doing FLL in our mentored teams, embodying equality.

By transitioning into an enterprise we are going one step further in achieving our team mission. In every step we take we look back to our starting point, the core values granted us by FIRST and using it to transform our culture, by evolving the one thing we know best will carry our country and the world into greater heights; the industry. It is apparent that this task is too hard to accomplish on our own. Yet we see that we are not as alone as it may look. Though we always believed it, we are only now seeing when we come together we always achieve more...