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UNISTELLAR

Science journal Nature hails general public's involvement in conquest of space

Marseille, March 1, 2023 – The contributions of Unistellar's global citizen science community to NASA's DART mission last fall are now being validated and recognized by the scientific world with the publication of an article in the scientific journal, Nature.

Observations from over 30 amateur stargazers armed with Unistellar's powerful, easy-to-use smart telescopes in the United States, Japan, France, Reunion Island, Australia, New Zealand, the Seychelles, Hong Kong and Kenya have confirmed the effectiveness of the DART planetary defense mission.

In September 2022, the probe, launched from Earth, deliberately collided with the asteroid Dimorphos. This first test of planetary defense under real conditions was assessed not only from space but also from Earth, specifically using Unistellar smart telescopes.

"An impact from an asteroid the size of Dimorphos, or any asteroid larger than 100 meters, could have catastrophic consequences for Earth," said Franck Marchis, co-founder and scientific director of Unistellar. "As the hit movie 'Don't Look Up' demonstrated, we need to be aware of this threat. Once one has been detected, humanity will need a reliable, tried and tested way to alter the object's trajectory. The Unistellar network has confirmed the effectiveness of a 'kinetic energy' deflection method which was tested during the DART mission."

The unique, international dimension of the Unistellar network made it possible, in collaboration with the SETI Institute, to provide crucial confirmation of DART's effectiveness, culminating in the publication of an article in Nature. Over 30 users of Unistellar telescopes were able to observe the impact of DART on Dimorphos, as well as the behavior of the asteroid after the impact. This data, obtained by private individuals on Earth, then made it possible to confirm the information collected by the space probe, which is estimated to have cost approximately $324 million.

"Thanks to their simplicity of use and their power, Unistellar's smart telescopes are increasingly bringing recreational astronomy and scientific achievement closer together," said Laurent Marfisi, co-founder and managing director of Unistellar. "This publication in Nature is not just a source of pride for us and our users, who have been recognized as co-authors of a major scientific breakthrough, but it also marks our entry into an era where the general public is becoming a decisive player in the conquest of space, holding the key to more discoveries and wider dissemination of scientific knowledge."

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About Unistellar

Unistellar is the creator of the world's most powerful and easy-to-operate smart telescopes, the eVscope 2 and the eQuinox 2. The company's proprietary and patented advancements in optics and imaging technology make exploring and immersing yourself in space possible for everyone, even in cities with high levels of light pollution.

Unistellar has received two CES Awards: one in the "Digital Imaging" category for the eVscope 2 in 2022 and one in the "Tech for a Better World" category for the eVscope in 2018.

Through partnerships with leading scientific institutions like NASA and the SETI Institute, Unistellar has amassed the world's largest network of telescopes. Powered by a community of citizen astronomers with over 10,000 members, this network continues to grow and help advance cutting-edge research into astronomical phenomena like exoplanets, asteroids, comets and more.

For more information about Unistellar, visit www.unistellar.com and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

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