

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

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STRUCTURE, ACHIEVEMENTS AND REGIONAL IMPACT: SCIENTIFIC-TECHNOLOGICAL  
NON-PROFIT CIVIL ASSOCIATION “STARS HUNTERS”

**Abstract**

Mexico faces several challenges in the area of science and technology diffusion and dissemination, which has made it difficult to position itself globally with good competitiveness indicators. These problems are perceived from the governmental, academic, industrial, social, and environmental levels, as well as the regional management of resources allocated for scientific work, the development of technology and innovation, and institutional linkages. This project addresses the needs of the state of Durango located in northeastern Mexico, where, according to the results obtained by the Mexican Institute for Competitiveness A.C. (2022), in the Innovation sub-index, Durango ranks 15th out of 32 entities nationwide, having a decreasing rate of -4.3% in 2022, compared to the -1.3% obtained in 2021. Similarly, in the stable economy index, Durango occupies the 26th position, causing a talent drain due to the few academic and labor opportunities in the STEAM region. Faced with this problem, since November 2019 “Stars Hunters” was founded and in the year 2021 formalizes its activities as a civil association, raising within its structure the multidisciplinary approach, composed of profiles of engineering, science, teachers, researchers and students of basic education, dedicated to the promotion of science and technology through scientific research projects and technological development, as well as scientific outreach programs that support the promotion of STEAM areas. The purpose of this research is to share the experience of the creation of a Civil Association with a scientific-technological twist, the challenges overcome and the challenges identified, as well as the vision for the locality in the future, aligned with national plans with a global vision, in order to contribute to the generation of human talent in the areas of astronautical sciences, as well as the aerospace and astronautical sector. The fundamental characteristics of the association’s activities are based on planning, evaluation, decentralization, concurrence of contributions, dissemination of knowledge and the selection of beneficiaries through competitive, efficient, equitable and public procedures. Currently, Stars Hunters has grown vertiginously, having more than 90 active members, 10% of whom come from other cities in the Mexican Republic. Likewise, members of the community have participated in na-

tional and international events focused on the development of innovation projects, experimental rocketry, participation in congresses, among others.