

August 19th, 2014

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## **SLOOH receives \$30,000 Grant from Department of Economic and Community Development for Internet Telescope**

Slooh LLC, based at the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc. (CCAT), in East Hartford, Conn., announced today that it received a \$30,000 grant from the Department of Economic and Community Development toward the purchase of a new asteroid research telescope.

The grant comes on the heels of Slooh's recent announcement of a partnership with NASA to engage citizen scientists in the effort to track and characterize near-Earth asteroids. Amateur astronomers will be able to use Slooh's global network of online telescopes to learn how to monitor and characterize NEOs, offering citizen scientists without access to professional equipment the opportunity to be a part of the global challenge to find all asteroids hazardous to human populations and know what to do about them.

"We're proud to be providing the essential resources that Slooh needs to expand their unique program to mobilize people around the world to monitor asteroids that may threaten our planet," said Elliot Ginsberg, CCAT president and CEO. "Through CCAT's incubator facility, in conjunction with DECD's program funding, we foster entrepreneurship and are dedicated to supporting innovative organizations like Slooh on their journey to success."

"This grant supports Slooh's model of collaborative consumption" said Michael Paolucci, founder and CEO of SLOOH. "By enabling people to share powerful telescopes situated at world class observatories, we have built the easiest and most affordable way to train and engage citizen astronomers in performing real science. Absolutely anyone can learn to do this."

Slooh is planning to add 10 telescopes to its facility at the Institute of Astrophysics of the Canary Islands (IAC) to gear up for the asteroid campaign. Slooh and IAC recently announced an extension to 2020 of their decade long partnership in preparation for Slooh's expansion. "Completing a census of Near Earth Asteroids is of exceptional relevance. We are very pleased to collaborate with SLOOH and amateur astronomers to follow-up Potentially Hazardous Asteroids with available optical and infrared telescopes in the Canarian Observatories" said Rafael Rebolo, IAC Director.

In support of the Asteroid Grand Challenge, NASA and Slooh will recruit and train citizen astronomers to perform follow on observations of asteroids after they are discovered by professional astronomers. These subsequent observations to characterize the size, rotation and

light reflecting qualities of asteroids are essential to precisely determine their orbits. There are currently 10,957 discovered NEAs, of which 1,472 are classified as potentially hazardous asteroids (PHA). It is estimated that while 90 percent of the 1 kilometre plus sized asteroids have been discovered, only 30% of the 140-metre sized NEAs have been found, with less than 1 percent of the 30-metre sized NEAs having been detected.

### **About Slooh**

Slooh makes astronomy incredibly easy, engaging and affordable for anyone with a desire to see outer space for themselves. Since 2003 Slooh has connected telescopes to the Internet for access by the broader public. Slooh's automated observatories develop celestial images in real-time for broadcast to the Internet. Slooh's technology is protected by Patent No.: US 7,194,146 B2 which was awarded in 2006. Slooh members have taken over 2.5m photos/140,000 FITS of over 40,000 celestial objects, and participated in numerous discoveries with leading astronomical institutions. Slooh's flagship observatories are situated on Mt. Teide, in partnership with the Institute of Astrophysics of the Canary Islands (IAC), and in Chile, in partnership with the Catholic University. Slooh has also broadcast live celestial events from partner observatories in Arizona, Japan, Hawaii, Cypress, Dubai, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Norway. Slooh's free live broadcasts of potentially hazardous asteroids (PHAs), comets, transits, eclipses, solar activity etc. feature narration by astronomy experts Bob Berman and Paul Cox and are syndicated to media outlets worldwide. Slooh signed a Space Act Agreement with NASA in March 2014 to "Bring the Universe to Everyone and Help Protect Earth, Too"