



Turkish Space Agency (TUA) and Its Strategies

S. Metin Kibar* ⁽¹⁾, and Fatih Dulkan ⁽¹⁾, Yurdanur Tulunay ⁽¹⁾

(1) Turkish Space Agency, Ankara, Turkey e-mail: metin.kibar@tua.gov.tr, fatih.dulkan@tua.gov.tr, ytulunay@metu.edu.tr

Throughout the history, Turkish nation has contributed humanity's understanding of the cosmos -which is mostly overlooked- with scientists and astronomers. Although many studies have been carried out by academic and various state institutions, Turkey's expedition of space has accelerated with the establishment of TUA, which gathers all other public institutions under a single roof.

Vision of Turkish Space Agency is "To be the pioneer and leading institution carrying out the endeavors that will benefit our country and all humanity in accordance with the requirements of the New Space age" and Mission of TUA is "To carry out the space strategy of our state in an efficient, safe and sustainable way by rapidly improving the qualified human capital in the space field, the space ecosystem of our country and by assessing international cooperation where required". In order to accomplish this, Turkish Space Agency developed the National Space Program of Turkey. The duration of this program is 10 years, ending in 2030. National Space Program (NSP), which is a comprehensive document that considers the latest developments in the world and reflects Turkey's main objectives, as well as the steps which are being taken to achieve them. NSP aims to make Turkey one of the capable actors in the space field. Almost every one of these Strategic Goals includes international cooperation and collaboration. The 10 strategical goals of the NSP are listed below:

1. Moon Mission: In memory of the 100th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Republic of Turkey, the first contact with the moon will be established.
2. To Merge Satellite Production Activities Under One Single Authority and the Program for Developing National Satellites: To create an internationally competent brand on new-generation satellite production and development.
3. Regional Positioning and Timing System: Developing a regional positioning and timing system for Turkey
4. Access to Space and Space Port: Ensuring access to space and establishing a space port administration
5. Technological Research on Space Weather: To increase our competitiveness in space by investing in space weather.
6. Observing and Monitoring Space Objects from the Earth: To increase Turkey's efficiency in terms of astronomical observations and follow up space objects from the earth
7. Developing Space Economy Industry: To improve and support the space economy industry
8. Space Technologies Development Region: Establishing a technology development region and TUA headquarters at Middle East Technical University Region
9. Space Awareness and Human Capital Development: To develop effective and competent human resources in the field of space
10. Turkish Astronaut and Science Mission: To send a Turkish citizen to ISS with a scientific mission

TUA is open to cooperation with all possible partners to offer the opportunity to develop space technology domestically and internationally to build basic elements for a potential space industry and inspire innovations in the other countries. Also, these international networks help reducing the "space gap" between space-faring nations and others. Building new partnerships will strengthen the faith in the peacemaker function of collaboration instead of competition. International cooperation and multilateralism will be the key factors on the path to the future for the next generations.