

Starhopper Observatory (M45)
Sfântu Gheorghe, Covasna, ROMANIA
felician@starhopper.ro

Dear Members of the IAWN Steering Committee,

I am writing to submit my formal statement of intent for Starhopper Observatory (MPC code **M45**) to join the International Asteroid Warning Network (IAWN). I have carefully reviewed the IAWN Statement of Intent, understand the roles and responsibilities for network members, and commit to adhering to IAWN's policies on data sharing, cooperation and responsible public communication.

Starhopper Observatory is a pro-am facility I established in March 2023 in Sfântu Gheorghe, Covasna County, Romania. In less than three years of operation, I have reported over 1,000 observed and measured objects, subsequently published in Minor Planet Electronic Circulars (MPECs), demonstrating my sustained contribution to the global NEO follow-up effort. Also, in collaboration with other observers, I have participated in several asteroid occultation campaigns.

Although privately operated, the observatory maintain active pro-am collaborations and benefit from the guidance of experienced professionals. At the national level, I coordinate with other Romanian observers within a small network that includes stations **L04** and **M35**.

Starhopper Observatory operates two primary instruments on a two remote-controlled mounts under a dark sky (Bortle class ~4):

- Follow-up and astrometry: 16-inch Meade LX200GPS Schmidt-Cassegrain mounted equatorially, equipped with an Optec TCF Lynx 3" motorized focuser and a 0.75x reducer (f/7.5).
- Wide-field scanning and recovery: 14-inch Celestron telescope with a HyperStar v4 lens (focal length 715 mm, f/2).
- Cameras: ZWO ASI6200MM Pro, Canon 6D DSLR.

I remain available for any further information and hope for a favorable evaluation of my application.

Sincerely,

Felician Ursache
Starhopper Observatory (M45)
www.starhopper.ro
starhopper.observatory@gmail.com
felician@starhopper.ro

