

Xingming Observatory (IAU Code C42/N88/N89)
Nanshan Station, Gangou Township, Ürümqi County
Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, 830000
China P.R.



October 18, 2020

Dr. Lindley N. Johnson
NEO Programs Executive
Planetary Science Division
Science Mission Directorate
NASA Headquarters
Washington DC 20546
U.S.A.

Re: Statement of Intent for Participation of the IAWN Network

Dear Dr. Johnson,

As the founder and manager of the Xingming Observatory, I would like to inform you about our intention to participate in the International Asteroid Warning Network (IAWN). Xingming Observatory is an amateur observatory in Xinjiang, China, named after the late Chinese amateur astronomer Xing-Ming Zhou. Inaugurated in 2007, Xingming Observatory is among the very first remotely-operating amateur observatory in China. It is home to several citizen science projects, including an amateur-led synoptic sky survey searching for novae, supernovae, comets and asteroids. Currently, the Observatory houses six telescopes, with the largest being the 0.6-m Ningbo Education Xinjiang Telescope (NEXT) and the 0.5-m Half Meter Telescope (HMT), which are frequently being used to follow up objects on the Minor Planet Center NEO Confirmation Page. Located in mid Asia, several hours west of Hawaii and Arizona where many major NEO surveys are located, we will continue to provide rapid follow up of newly discovered NEOs detected by these surveys and others.

Sincerely,

Xing Gao
Founder and Manager of Xingming Observatory

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Xing Gao' in a stylized cursive script.