

LOS Tara: A Home in Space

TOS Wins First Prize in the Worldwide NASA Ames Space Settlement Contest 2018

A team of 11 students from The Orchid School in Baner, won the class IX large group category on debut in the 2018 NASA Ames Space Settlement Contest - a worldwide competition held by NASA, National Space Society and the San Jose University. Like past years, NASA received more than 2500 entries for this competition. The Orchid team's design that bagged the 1st prize in the class IX large group category included Aditya Nebhrajani, Arnav Kalgutkar, Shlok Pande, Ojas Davare, Aryan Deore, Galav Sharma and Aditya Deshmukh from the ninth grade, and Dhruv Jadhav, Chinmay Kharche, Ved Joshi, and Arshia Joshi from the seventh grade.

The Orchids team presented a novel, innovative and futuristic space settlement design, named LOS Tara (LOS-Lunar Orbit Station, Tara-'star' in Hindi). The settlement, summarized in a 150-page scientific paper, describes the power, life support, agriculture, structure, government, robotics and other such aspects of LOS Tara required to support a population of 15,000 citizens. The project also surmounted the challenges posed by life in the lunar orbit.



The project team was formed by the students themselves, meeting consistently during and after school hours, as well as through their vacations. Sure, this project taught them valuable technical and scientific skills, but also key life lessons like collaboration, coordination, project management, dedication and balancing academics along with the project.

"We can stand by and watch them conquer the world, and the sage need not be on the stage, the champions have proved it. Proud of our students"