

Pioneering FIRST in the Netherlands

We are team 5412 and we are going into our sixth season. We are one of four FRC teams currently active in the Netherlands, where we have spend the last few years working to spread FIRST. When we started there was only one active FRC team in our country and the FIRST community in our region was very small. Now we are aiming to develop the community and create opportunities for students of all ages in our region.

As a team, we work to create an environment where all team participants can grow and develop themselves. Using FIRST as a method to teach students STEM-related expertise. Through working together we gain valuable life experiences and advance personal skills such as communication and leadership. Together with our students we work to become pioneers in FIRST in our community and the Netherlands in general.

As a team we are very focused to have good relations within our team. We want to welcome anyone who is interested in pursuing our message with kindness. Members of our team operate with a high level of professionalism and integrity and have been doing so since our rookie year. With them we have created an environment where everyone can expand their talents. As the only team in our region, we work hard to help anyone interested in FIRST.

In the current state of FIRST in our country, it's a big challenge to start FRC teams. As the only team in our area, the FRC community around us is very limited. To help the community grow we have worked to introduce the FRC to universities and high schools in our region. Besides this we put in a lot of effort to develop the local FLL scene. Although the immediate results are small, we hope to create a community that will develop over time to allow other teams to start up more easily.

Through our outreach program, we have showcased at a consistently high number of events every year. Being the only team in the north of The Netherlands, we feel like it's our responsibility to introduce the FIRST message and FRC to our region and to do this while demonstrating excellence and enthusiasm. To do this we work with local organizers of FLL and similar competitions as well as schools and universities in our area. In addition to this we attend events that are unrelated to FIRST and other robotics competition to make FIRST known to businesses, schools and universities. We are very proud to say that with an average of 10-15 active students we have done a total 2634 hours of volunteer work.

Over the years we have continuously found new ways to develop the FIRST community both with our own outreach program and by working together with other teams. We have worked together with team 1902 Exploding Bacon and their

program FIRSTLikeAGIRL. Both by promoting it at competitions we have attended and by introducing the program to The Netherlands. More recently we have started working with team 3240 and their program Launching STEM and we're hoping to introduce this to The Netherlands in the near future.

At Impossible Robotics we strive to inspire the new generations to pursue a trajectory of personal growth. We work together with events and institutions to be able to achieve our goal. We do this by offering workshops either at specific schools or for people from different schools, on a variety of topics, both related and unrelated to FIRST so we can reach as large an audience as possible. Through our workshops we have also helped a growing number of teams in the FIRST programs. Our members work together with these teams to help FIRST teams in our region and provide them with the tools needed to develop their team. Many of our students are or have been involved with the FLL and progressed through the FIRST program before joining our team so we care a lot about helping the next generation do the same.

Impossible Robotics is a completely independent team. We work together with a variety of organizations, such as high schools, universities and businesses and are partnered with over 20 corporate and foundation sponsors who provide support. Our largest sponsors include Victron energy, NHL Hogeschool and Hanze Hogeschool Groningen. We have continuously worked with these organizations to grow and improve our team in numerous ways. As a team we have mutually beneficial relationships with our sponsors. Ever since our rookie year, our sponsors have supported us not only financially, but also with resources and services. They also work with us to grow our team, by helping us find new students and mentors. This way we can keep increasing our success as a team, as well as our impact on our community and our team participants.

We are proud of the progress we have made over the last four years and will continue to spread FIRST with professionalism and enthusiasm. **TOGETHER WE ARE CHALLENGING THE IMPOSSIBLE!**