

## Rantiga Osservatorio, Tincana (MPC-D03): Observations and searching for small Solar System bodies using a remotely controlled telescope

M. Zolnowski<sup>1</sup> and M. Kusiak<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Rantiga Osservatorio, Tincana, Italy, MPC D03

Rantiga Osservatorio is the first Polish project aimed at discovering and observing small solar-system objects, including near-Earth objects and comets. The observatory officially started in March 2012, as a result of cooperation between two amateur astronomers: Michal Zolnowski and Michal Kusiak. Subsequently, our station received official designation D03 assigned by the IAU's Minor Planet Center. The equipment is installed in northern Italy, on the border between Emilia-Romagna and Tuscany, in the small village of Tincana at an altitude of 643 m. The heart of the observatory is a 0.4-meter reflector f/3.8, mounted on Paramount ME and CCD camera SBIG STX-16803. The equipment is controlled by an industrial computer connected to the internet, and software allowing for automation and remote control of the telescope from Poland.

It is also the first Polish amateur observatory which has been used for the discoveries of potentially new asteroids since 1949. Between 2012 and 2013, Rantiga Osservatorio made it possible to submit over 13,000 astrometric measurements of 3,500 asteroids, and we also reported 1,151 candidates for potentially unknown objects.

During our presentation, we would like to introduce details of design and several enhancements to allow a convenient and safe way to control an observing session from anywhere in the world using a smartphone.

**References:** Rantiga Osservatorio website, [rantigaosservatorio.org](http://rantigaosservatorio.org); Minor Planet Center, Observation Database.