

Intro & Links



INTRO & LINKS

SCIENCE TEAM

UAS

On this page are all the materials you'll need to play First Contact: 2035 at Gen Con 2025. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us via the Gen Con messaging system, the [Megagame Coalition Discord](#), or [email](#).

NOTE. This and other team materials are confidential.

Do not read other teams' briefs.

General links:

[Cast list](#)

General handbooks:

[Team brief](#) (keep this secret)

[Human handbook](#)

[Background handbook](#)

[UN Council handbook](#)

[Science handbook](#) (all players)

[Space handbook](#) (all players, rules explanation video below)

Video Walkthroughs

[Science Walkthrough](#)

[Space Game Walkthrough](#)

Useful megagame guides:

[7 Habits of Highly Effective Megagamers](#)

[Shut Up & Sit Down plays a previous 200-player megagame](#) (our game is based on this famous megagame)

[Greg Evans' megagame beginner's guides](#)



Team Brief

UNION OF AFRICAN SCIENCES (UAS)



MISSION

To be recognised as an innovative institution that is committed to Africa's development and the formation of an academic elite.

Location

Pretoria, South Africa

Motto

In scientia speramus
(In science we trust)

UAS is the greatest confederacy of scientific thought in the African continent. While we may be looked down upon by our peers - we know that we are the premier repository of talent and knowledge in the entire world. We are typically cautious, unwilling to push solutions that we consider too radical - our breakthroughs must take place in harmony with the world around us, though that's not to say we shouldn't be pushing the envelope at all times.

We must strive to be the world's most prestigious scientific institute and therefore the most trusted scientific experts. To achieve this, we must produce more scientific breakthroughs than our competitors, and present more ideas at the scientific symposiums. The nations in our region should support us - we should ask for money and resources and in return they can learn of our discoveries first.

SPACE

Space is the next frontier and we must be at the forefront of the discoveries to come. While we cannot launch our researchers into space on our own, there are many powerful nations and corporations who can be approached to facilitate what we require. We must:

- Push to the edges of space: Get our research teams as far out into the Solar System as possible to test prototypes and conduct research
- Acquire foreign objects and debris, and unlock the mysteries they hold
- Identify the source of the unknown energy release (see below), as it has all the signs of intelligent origin. We must be the first to uncover the truth - and harvest the prestige that will incur
- Discover If there really is intelligent life out there. If there is, we must determine the level of threat to humanity as soon as possible - and take the lead on any course of action

GLOBAL ISSUES

Space may be exciting but we must also look to deal with our own planet, climate change, health and other issues that must be dealt with. We should work with the UN to help overcome global issues.

- **Climate change:** We must research and test new technology to counter the impacts of climate change. The more radical the solution, the better, something that will shock humanity into taking it seriously
- **The energy crisis:** We should confront this issue with a step change in renewable power. We must find nations willing to help test radical new energy solutions
- **Food and water scarcity:** Traditional methods of food production will no longer suffice; high-tech solutions, or even geoforming, are required
- **Life expectancy:** Eternal life is not worth living if life isn't worth living. We must focus not on eternal life, but on increased comfort in our twilight years. This means eradicating the pains and diseases of old age and in doing so, promoting healthier and happier lives for all. If you think about it, who actually wants to live forever? It is an awful amount of time to get bored in...

ANOMALY DETECTED

A few days ago, we detected an unusual signal near the edge of the solar system. Early analysis suggests a large release of energy occurred at the same time, almost like an explosion. At this time we do not understand what caused the release.

What we do have is this blurry image taken of the anomaly in secret from our most advanced optical telescope array. It's hard to make out what is going on, but early thinking is that it is potentially not a natural occurrence.



If we can, we should request the **Oceanic Institute of Science (OIS)** to retask the James Webb Telescope to take a closer look at the object and obtain clearer images.

We are tracking some debris which we believe has broken off the object, and is heading towards Earth and other planets at a very rapid pace. We are not concerned about this phenomenon however, as meteorites of this size will burn up in the atmosphere. If we can gather

samples from any impact sites, it should produce immeasurably valuable data to learn more about the object in space.

We hesitate to call the object "alien", but what else could it be? We should utilise our influence to ensure our researchers obtain any debris first. Whether that comes via an agreement with a nation, a coalition of countries or even the corporations, it matters not. If it does prove to be proof of alien life, we should aim to assess the threat before we make contact - and prepare ourselves (and the world) for anything.

STARTING RESEARCH PROJECTS

These are the major investigations that UAS is currently working on. You may mothball one or both of these Research Projects, but much research could be lost if you do.

Project 1		Project 2	
Name	Genome Project Write (Biology)	Name	Swarm Intelligence (Computer Science)
Scope	Genome Project Write (GP-write) is focused on writing, editing and building large genomes. We will generate a wealth of information connecting the sequence of nucleotide bases in DNA with their physiological properties and functional behaviours, enabling the development of safer, less costly and more effective therapeutics. There's a broad range of applications in other areas such as energy, agriculture, chemicals and bio-remediation	Scope	Computers work by connecting large numbers of simple processing units (neurons) into complex real-time networks (brains). Swarm Intelligence is similar, but it connects groups of intelligent organisms (brains) into complex real-time networks that can solve complex modelling
Outcome	Major Breakthrough: Genome writing Prototype: New Therapeutics Convince a government to allow you to roll this out across a real population; it should improve vastly human health	Outcome	Prototype: Swarm processor Swarm computing could massively boost our other research. Or that of the highest bidder...
Scale	Grand	Scale	Grand

STARTING ASSETS

- Svalbard Global Seed Vault
- Square Kilometre Array (SKA)

ADVICE

Few others but us will be aware of the anomaly at this time. This information puts us in a special position and we should not waste the opportunity. We should lobby countries, corporations, and the United Nations to our way of thinking. Who knows who our allies are right now?

Speak to as many people as we can to secure funding to further our work - and do not be afraid to ask them to work on our behalf if what you are doing will benefit them. We cannot accomplish everything on our own.

The Science and Technology Facilitators will be on hand to guide us, and if we need any ideas on what to research next, feel free to ask their opinion. Go forth and create some world-changing science!