# **New UK space education programme focusing on**

# **spaceports and future space missions**

**The UK Association for Science and Discovery Centres and the UK Space Agency have joined forces to select 13 science centres and museums across the UK to bring the latest space science to families and schoolchildren across our nation.**

Following on from the huge success of ASDC's Destination Space education programme, the UK Space Agency is supporting ASDC to create new space resources that will inspire families and school-children with the exciting science and engineering of future space missions, including UK spaceports and space launchers, the new James Webb Space Telescope, the ExoMars mission and innovative ways to use data from satellites. This exciting programme will also cover celebrations this summer of the 50th anniversary of the first Moon landing and look at how the Moon might feature in future space exploration.

The 13 UK science centres and museums in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales will deliver all these specially created space activities to over 200,000 children and adults in their regions from this summer until March 2021.

Destination Space is the national STEM programme created and run by ASDC and funded by the UK Space Agency. The first phase of this national programme ran from 2014 to 2017 and engaged, inspired and involved families with school-age children, school groups, teachers and communities across the UK with the amazing stories, science and achievements of human spaceflight and Tim Peake's Principia mission. Overall **914,646** children and adults took part in this ASDC programme, participating in our Destination Space workshops, family shows and meet the expert events. This included 80,201 people who met and spoke with a space scientist or engineer and 152,348 school students brought by teachers for the curriculum-linked space workshops to add a boost to school science.

This new 2.5 year programme, called Destination Space 2, aims to make a strategic step-change nationally in sharing cutting-edge space science and engineering with children, families and the public more widely. It builds on all the training, knowledge and enthusiasm for space science in science centres across the UK, enabling delivery of these amazing space activities into the future.

Dr Penny Fidler, the CEO of ASDC and Programme Director of Destination Space said

*“This is such an exciting time for space in the UK. We have spaceports being built here in the next few years, we play a world-leading role in building our own satellites and brilliant new ideas to use the satellite data are being thought up all the time, and to top it off we have the Mars mission in two years’ time. We are delighted to be sharing all these latest innovations with children, families and the public across the UK, and rather hoping we might inspire the next round of UK space entrepreneurs.”*

**Catherine Mealing-Jones, Director of Growth at UK Space Agency said:**

*“Our £50 million spaceflight programme is a key part of the UK Government's Industrial Strategy.*

*The space sector is growing fast and we’ll need 30,000 more people to join it over the next decade to meet our ambitions for growth. In partnership with the UK Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC), the UK Space Agency will bring the latest space science to children and families across the UK and help inspire the next generation of space scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs.”*

**The following UK Science Centres have been selected to bring this exciting new national space programme to children, families and communities in their regions:**

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|  | Aberdeen Science Centre | Aberdeen |
|  | Dundee Science Centre | Dundee |
|  | Dynamic Earth | Edinburgh |
|  | Glasgow Science Centre | Glasgow |
|  | Eureka! | Halifax |
|  | International Centre for Life | Newcastle |
|  | National Space Centre | Leicester |
|  | Observatory Science Centre | Sussex |
|  | Techniquest Glyndŵr | Wrexham, North Wales |
|  | ThinkTank, Birmingham Science Museum | Birmingham |
|  | W5 | Belfast |
|  | Winchester Science Centre | Winchester |
|  | Woolsthorpe Manor | Lincolnshire |

The UK Association for Science and Discovery Centres will lead the creative direction and management of this programme, and the activities and events will be created in collaboration with space researchers, engineers, academics, and those working on the spaceports, along with teachers and engagement specialists from the National Space Centre, National Space Academy and experts from the UK Space Agency.

This exciting new schools and families programme launches from April 2019 with the Moon Landing 50th Anniversary events, with all other events launching from November 2019.

# **Additional Information**

1. **The Programme Vision**: To engage, inspire and involve families with school-age children, school groups and communities across the UK with the amazing stories and innovative science and engineering of the UK’s world-leading space sector, especially focussing on UK spaceports, satellite applications and space exploration.
2. **The Programme Mission:** To create hands-on activities, school workshops, a family show and other resources to bring alive the new UK spaceports and launchers, innovative satellite applications, and areas of UK space exploration including the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing, the James Webb Space Telescope and ExoMars, and to select and train Science Centres and Museums across the UK to deliver these to schools, families and communities nationally.
3. **The Success of Destination Space 1:** Overall 914,646 people have been engaged through Destination Space 1 activities. Of these, 152,348 were school children age 5-14 in curriculum-linked space workshops and 80,201 people met and spoke with a space scientist or engineer. The evaluation of over 12,000 school students showed that boys and girls enjoyed the activities equally and were equally inspired and engaged by them.
4. **The UK Association for Science and Discovery Centres** (ASDC) is the vibrant national charity that brings together the UK’s leading science engagement organisations to play a strategic role in the nation’s engagement with science. Within our membership are over 60 of the nation’s largest publically accessible science centres, discovery centres, science museums and scientific bodies. Together our vision is for a society where people of all backgrounds and in all parts of the UK are inspired and can get involved with the sciences.

Every year in the UK, 20 million people of all ages and backgrounds choose to get involved with science at one of the UK’s science and discovery centres or science museums. This equates to 385,000 people every week who come to our member centres to explore and discuss science in an involving and personal way. [www.sciencecentres.org.uk](http://www.sciencecentres.org.uk)

1. **The UK Space Agency** leads the UK’s efforts to explore and benefit from space, with responsibility for all strategic decisions on the UK civil space programme. It ensures Government investments in space science and technology deliver significant value to the UK economy and people’s lives. As set out in the Industrial Strategy, the UK Space Agency works with industry to develop new technologies, infrastructure and services, and to ensure the UK thrives in the commercial space age.

**The UK Space Agency:**

* supports the work of the UK space sector at home and abroad, maximising its benefit to the UK’s growing economy
* Invests in science and exploration to increase our understanding of the universe and deliver practical benefits such as new technologies to life on Earth.
* inspires the next generation of UK scientists and engineers.
* Provides a safe and supportive regulatory environment for the launch and operation of UK spacecraft, launch operators and UK spaceports.
* Promotes global co-operation in space, through the UK’s membership of the European Space Agency and international partnerships.

The UK Space Agency is an executive agency, sponsored by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy.

### Contacts:

For information on this exciting National Project, please contact:

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| Local Contact  Dr Penny Fidler  The ASDC CEO and Project Director  0117 915 0186 | Gareth Bethell  Media Manager, UK Space Agency  07925 891 949  gareth.bethell@ukspaceagency.gov.uk  Andy McLeod  The ASDC Special Projects Manager  0117 925 9753  [andy.mcleod@sciencecentres.org.uk](mailto:andy.mcleod@sciencecentres.org.uk) |

### Please note:

* Please refer to UK Space Agency in full (never UKSA)
* Please use the quote from the UK Space Agency in your own press release.
* Please use a photo of children/families engaging at your centre, or a photo related to the Phase 2 content, rather than a photo of the astronaut suit, as this programme isn’t about human spaceflight.

### Twitter

Please tweet with the following handles and we will and the space agency will retweet some

@sciencecentres

@spacegovuk

you can also use @destin\_space and #DestinationSpace