# Update for National Forum from ASDC, January 2018

ASDC – The UK Association for Science and Discovery Centres

ASDC is currently running six national STEM programmes.

This week we trained 40 NERC Scientists as part of our NERC-funded national environmental science programme, and recently trained and equipped the 11 selected Science Centres to run the entire programme, complete with a bespoke ‘Earthy Suit’. This programme will engage over 100,000 children and adults at UK science centres in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, including The Natural History Museum, Eden and Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh. Events and activities launch this week in the February half-term and run until October.

Another ASDC National STEM Programme, The Secret World of Gases, launches this weekend in the February half term at 9 UK centres. This programme is in partnership with the Royal Society of Chemistry and BOC and at least 54,000 children and adults will take part this year exploring the future uses of gases and how they will be used for a greener world.

Alongside these, ASDC continues to lead the UK part of two Horizon 2020 programmes, one on improving gender equity in STEM and the other to increase citizen participation in the way science is funded across Europe. This is a special consultation programme requested by Horizon 2020 where the results feed into future Horizon 2020 calls.

ASDC is delighted to continue running Explore Your Universe in partnership with STFC which for the past 2 years has focussed on reaching disadvantaged families, schools and communities in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. 40,000 children and adults have taken part in this phase from a range of communities including rural areas, a prison, hospitals and areas of the UK high on the indices of multiple deprivation.

This adds to the 347,008 families, school children and adults who have taken part these physics and engineering shows and workshops to date of which 45,852 met a scientist or engineer.

This year ASDC also brought together academics and innovators in the Space sector to bring alive our latest space programme Destination Space 2. This follows on from our earlier partnership with the UK Space Agency which 733,017 children and adults who took part in, including 100,244 school children age 5-14 in schools workshops and 75,741 children and adults who met and spoke with a space scientist or engineer.

ASDC also undertook the largest ever evaluation of an informal science programme in science centres (internationally) through this Space programme, building on our other large-scale national academic evaluation programmes undertaken with STFC.

Our national conference will be in Manchester (MOSI) on 10 October 2018 with Lord David Puttnam and all are welcome.