# Update for National Forum from ASDC, November 2017

ASDC – The UK Association for Science and Discovery Centres

We currently running six national STEM programmes. One of the newest programmes is Operation

Earth, a national environmental science programme with NERC that will engage over 100,000 children and adults next year and is being developed by ASDC with expertise from Eden, The Natural History Museum, Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh and NERC. Ten science centres will be trained to deliver this programme across the UK.

Another newer programme is The Secret World of Gases, in partnership with the Royal Society of

Chemistry and BOC. This programme will engage 54,000 children and adults next year about the future uses of gases and how they will be used for a greener world.

Alongside these, we continue to lead the UK part of two Horizon 20:20 programmes, one on gender

equity in STEM and the other to increase citizen participation in the way science is funded across

Europe. This is a special programme where the results feed into future Horizon 20:20 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. In all 347,008 families, school children and adults have taken

part in high-end physics and engineering shows and workshops (in the first 3 years), over half were

girls and women and just in Phase 1, 45,852 met a scientist or engineer.

We continue to work in partnership with the UK Space Agency. Our last ASDC space programme

engaged 733,017 children and adults who took part in shows and events, including 100,244 school

children age 5-14 in school’s workshops and 75,741 children and adults who met and spoke with a

space scientist or engineer.

We recently 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.