

# Destination Space Needs You: Astronaut Tim Peake calls on UK to join his crew

**Embargoed until 11pm on Tuesday 6 October**

Backed by the UK Space Agency, science centres across the UK have joined forces with the European Space Agency's first British astronaut, Tim Peake, to provide children all over the UK with a unique opportunity to join his crew, learn about human space flight and follow life on the International Space Station.

With over 20 million visitors to UK science centres every year, Destination Space will give families across the nation the chance to learn about Tim Peake's mission through hands-on experiments, rocket demonstrations, space equipment and video from the International Space Station.

As well as learning about Tim Peake's work on the International Space Station, the programme will celebrate the team behind Tim, highlighting great opportunities for young people within the science and space sectors.

Dr David Parker, Chief Executive of the UK Space Agency, said:

"Human spaceflight is the ultimate in team effort with many committed individuals working to get an astronaut into space. We wanted the Destination Space programme to recognise the talents of the people who support Tim Peake and in doing so showcase all the fantastic career opportunities this sector offers young people.

"Our Destination Space family shows and school workshops at 20 science centres across the UK allow visitors to learn more about Tim Peake's mission, get hands-on training and find out all about the great people that work behind the scenes in human space flight."

## Secure your place

Online, Destination Space follows Tim Peake's adventures in space and encourages the UK to get behind his mission through the inspiring figures who will be supporting his adventures. Everyone can sign up for training with Tim and share their endeavours via a social media command centre.

A unique personality tool has also been developed that allows people to secure their place in Tim Peake's crew, assigning everyone a role based on their interests and preferences.

The Destination Space Programme has been created and delivered by the UK Association for Science and Discovery Centres in Bristol working in partnership with expert teams at the National Space Centre in Leicester, Science Museum in London and Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre in Cheshire.

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

"Tim Peake is the European Space Agency's first British astronaut and we want children and families to feel they are truly a part of his exciting mission. His journey and time on the International Space Station provides a great opportunity to encourage children to be more curious, ask big questions and to enjoy science.

“By joining us for one of our science centre events or following Destination Space online, young people and families all over the UK can explore human space flight in a hands-on, fun and involving way.

“We want to show there is a huge crew of women and men from all areas of science and engineering who work to make space missions possible. This is a chance to celebrate their endeavours, giving young people the confidence and curiosity to explore and ask questions long after they leave the science and discovery centres.”

To join the Destination Space crew go to: [www.DestinationSpace.uk](http://www.DestinationSpace.uk)

Twenty Science and Discovery centres have been selected to run ‘Destination Space’ including:

National Space Centre	Leicester
Science Museum	London
Glasgow Science Centre	Glasgow
Dynamic Earth	Edinburgh
World Museum	Liverpool
Thinktank, Birmingham Museums Trust	Birmingham
Centre for Life	Newcastle
Techniquist	Cardiff
W5	Belfast
Eureka! The National Children's Museum	Halifax
At-Bristol Science Centre	Bristol
Observatory Science Centre	Sussex
Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre	Cheshire
Cambridge Science Centre	Cambridge
Satrosphere	Aberdeen
Techniquist Glyndwr	North Wales
Winchester Science Centre	Winchester
Dundee Science Centre	Dundee
Eden Project	Cornwall
Royal Observatory Greenwich	London

**Notes to Editors**

1. This two-year programme is funded by The UK Space Agency and aims to inspire young minds with the wonders of human

spaceflight and the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematical skills that make spaceflight possible. Find out about the team behind Tim Peake and his mission and the technology required to travel to, live on and safely return from the International Space Station.

2. The UK Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) is a national charity that brings together the UK's major 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 publicly 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 fully 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)

3. The UK Space Agency is at the heart of UK efforts to explore and benefit from space. It is responsible for all strategic decisions on the UK civil space programme and provides a clear, single voice for UK space ambitions. The Agency is responsible for ensuring that the UK retains and grows a strategic capability in the space-based systems, technologies, science and applications. It leads the UK's civil space programme in order to win sustainable economic growth, secure new scientific knowledge and provide benefits to all citizens.

4. Tim Peake is the first British ESA astronaut. After more than three years of training with the European Space Agency's (ESA) Astronaut Programme, Tim was selected to live and work on the International Space Station (ISS) for six months. He will carry out a comprehensive science programme and take part in a European education outreach programme in the build up to and during his mission. Tim is one of six astronauts who was selected from among 8,000 hopefuls. His flight is expected to take place in December 2015. Tim is working with the UK Space Agency to help build a strong programme of science. For example, Tim's flight could expand our international competitiveness in health research, innovative materials and processes, or help us to achieve important scientific results in plasma physics, exobiology or bone and muscle research.

5. In addition to hard science, Tim's combined programme helps to raise the profile of space with the general public and to inspire students and schoolchildren around the world. The UK will have 100,000 extra jobs in the Space Sector by 2030 and needs talented and creative women and men to design the future. We hope that some of the children inspired by Tim's mission could be the space scientists, engineers and developers of tomorrow.

6. The first ever British Astronaut was Helen Sharman who went into Space in 1991.

7. This national programme is delivered by the UK Association for Science and Discovery Centres, funded by the UK Space Agency and supported by the European Space Agency.

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