

For Immediate Release: 6 September 2016



Tickets are NOW ON SALE for the **10<sup>th</sup> Manchester Science Festival (MSF)** – England's **largest Science Festival**. Produced by the **Museum of Science and Industry**, supported by **Siemens** and **Lead Educational Sponsor, the University of Salford**, this year's Festival runs from **Thursday 20 October** to **Sunday 30 October**. Featuring over **130** unique events for all ages in many eclectic and surprising spaces across Greater Manchester, **MSF 2016** will mark the end of Manchester's year-long reign as **European City of Science** whilst building on its reputation as the boldest, most creative and most ambitious science festival in the country.

This year's Festival launches the UK Premiere of **The Chronarium Sleep Lab**. Located in prime shopping location **Manchester Arndale** from **20<sup>th</sup> October**, The Chronarium Sleep Lab offers shoppers the chance to recharge their batteries by joining 15 minute restorative sleep sessions.

As our public and private spaces become increasingly controlled by technology, it's often hard to switch off when everything is always switched on. However, the answer isn't always leaving technology behind, but sometimes finding new ways to make it work better for you.

Designed by artists **Rachel Wingfield** and **Mathias Gmachi** from London-based **Loop PH**, **The Chronarium** uses technology to improve one of the most important parts of our daily lives - sleep. Originally commissioned for and by the **FutureEverything Festival Singapore 2015**, this stunning and atmospheric creation - part art installation and part public sleep laboratory – offers a fully immersive experience and is aimed at providing an antidote to non-stop city living. On entering, visitors can lie down, rest and relax on hanging swings and hammocks and partake in an audio-visual experience to help bring on sleep before waking them up refreshed for city life.

For the world premiere of Cape Farewell's annual **Lovelock Art Commission** at the **Museum of Science and Industry**, Paris-based artists **HeHe** – Helen Evans and Heiko Hansen - have taken inspiration from pioneering climate scientist James Lovelock and the ground-breaking science funded by the **Natural Environment Research Council** (NERC) to bring atmospheric science powerfully to life across the MSI site. These exciting new pieces depict micro-climates, pollution and artificially engineered clouds in provocative new contexts, blurring the boundaries between the natural and the man-made. These three pieces ask us to consider society's role in environmental destabilisation, and ways forward to a cleaner, healthier future. These artworks complement NERC's **Into The Blue** campaign, a series of showcase events in the Northwest throughout October that celebrate the environmental science we live and breathe.

On the Festival's opening night on **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October**, internationally-acclaimed electronic outfit **Public Service Broadcasting** perform their hit album '*The Race For Space*' in its entirety for the very first time in a very special, one-off performance at Manchester's historic **Albert Hall**. Accompanied by an impressive brass section and musicians from the **Royal Northern College of Music**, including a string quintet and a 13-piece choir - this special event will begin with the mastermind behind Public Service Broadcasting, **J. Willgoose, Esq.** in conversation with **Professor Tim O'Brien, Associate Director of Jodrell Bank Observatory**. The pair will explore the stories of the American and Soviet space race at the heart of the album and discuss the making of the record and the journey it has led them on.

No **10<sup>th</sup> Birthday** would be complete without a party, so **Manchester Science Festival** is delighted to be organising a big one at the museum on **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October** as part of this year's **Science After Dark** strand. This adults-only night time celebration brings the science behind parties to life, exploring the maths behind cake cutting, the psychology of clowns and even the fluid dynamics of chocolate fountains. This great excuse to party continues into the next night at the **Nobel Prize Disco**, also happening at the museum. Here the Festival pays tribute to **Nobel Prize-winning Scientists Andre Geim and Konstantin Novosolov's** globally renowned isolation of graphene - through fancy dress. Come dressed as your favourite Nobel Prize winner – or winning discovery – and throw some shapes in the name of science.

Equally inventive and enticing evening events include: **The Science of Gambling with Guardian Live at Manchester235 Casino**. This cabaret-style show explores the different

scientific aspects of gambling, from the probability of winning to body language, bluffing and the reliability of luck. Foody lovers can tuck into a menu of **sustainable foods** at the **Marriot Victoria and Albert** as the hotel's chef explains the health benefits behind reusable menus...Or head on down to **The Runaway Brewery** to feast on a range of ingredients that owe their production to microorganisms in an evening hosted by **MMU's microbiologists and Grb MCr**, which will showcase dishes made by some of the city's best street food stalls. If liquid food is more of interest, take part in **Ginesis** – an evening experiencing the biology of taste, hosted by a member of the Royal Society of Chemistry OR enjoy a tutored tasting of six of Scotland's finest drams in **Whiskyology** at **Chetham's Library**. Join local whiskey enthusiasts to explore the tradition of whisky making and explain the science behind the distiller's art.

A jam-packed family programme is always very much at the heart of the **Manchester Science Festival** – and this year's 10<sup>th</sup> is no exception - featuring lots of events for all ages right across the city. Family highlights at the **Museum of Science and Industry** include: the **Virtual Reality Playground** for gaming fans and tech loving tots and teens featuring the very latest in VR devices, offering a unique and hands-on insight into what the future holds; the **Manchester Megapixel** which offers visitors the chance to see themselves as pixels and to take part in a giant megapixel installation to be revealed in full on the Festival's closing day; and **Robot Orchestra Live**, where Manchester's exclusive robot orchestra – formed entirely from recycled instruments, electronics and junk - perform alongside human musicians for the first time. This unique musical experience will be conducted by **Graphene**, a life-sized robot built by **Festival Headline Sponsors Siemens**.

Elsewhere in the city, family highlights include the annual **Science Jam** at the **Media City campus** of **Lead Educational Sponsor, the University of Salford**. Pop in over the Festival's opening weekend for a chance to experience life among living machines and venture into a "forest of curiosity" where writers, poets and actors team up with scientists, naturalists, geographers and environmentalists to embark on an interactive journey of discovery. And **Harry Potter Fans** are in for a rare treat with **The Philosopher's Scone**, with the chance to sit down to an afternoon tea with a difference at **Harvey Nichols Manchester**. Enjoy miniature cakes and pastries inspired by the world of Hogwarts' most famous student as author and journalist **Roger Highfield** explains how magic really works. There will also be a screening of **Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone**. Fancy dress is a must!

Knee-high explorers and crafty kids can partake in **Artist Sundays** and the **Big Draw** at the **Whitworth**, and create take home colourful art works inspired by the gallery's collection;

uncover the mysteries of space in the **Big Science Telescope Show** at **Jodrell Bank**; go **Hunting for Infections** at **Quarry Bank Mill**; play with oversized origami, twisted vines and massive paper sculptures at **Nightshade** at the **Gallery Oldham**; join in **Messy Science** at the **University of Bolton** and in the **Science Spectacular** at **Manchester Museum**; have a go at **3D modelling** at **Z-Arts** or **silver ring soldering** at **Manchester Craft and Design Centre** – a mere handful of the many drop-in and largely free activities taking place throughout the Festival.

And if that is not enough, add in coding with **HackManchester**, **Science Busking** with Festival Sponsors, theatre, comedy, debates, walking tours, In-conversation events, the music of **Star Wars**, the scientific realities of popular films including a chance to meet **Oscar-winning visual effects supervisor Paul Franklin** - as he reveals how his pioneering team used real scientific data on Christopher Nolan's spectacular 2014 science fiction blockbuster, **Interstellar**, - and you may just about come close to understanding the variety, size, choice and creativity behind this year's **10<sup>th</sup> Manchester Science Festival**.

**Manchester Science Festival Director, Antonio Benitez** comments: "We could not be prouder of and more excited about this year's Festival. With this being our 10<sup>th</sup>, we really did want to pull out all the stops to offer new and exciting events for our visitors to experience science in ground-breaking and imaginative ways. We think this year's Festival is the best yet, with unique content such as the sleep lab in a shopping centre to performances by a part-robot part-human orchestra and our Nobel Prize-winner Disco. There really is something here for all ages and levels of interest and we cannot wait until October 20<sup>th</sup> to get the party started."

**Juergen Maier, Chief Executive, Siemens plc** comments: "Siemens is proud to have played an integral role in the Manchester Science Festival which has successfully boosted the profile of engineering, skills and innovation whilst helping to enhance tourism for Manchester. As a global pioneer in innovative and environmental technologies, Siemens needs bright young people who are fascinated by science. The Manchester Science Festival gives us an ideal platform to inspire young people deciding on their careers to consider working for global engineering companies such as Siemens and to become the next generation of engineers."

**Andy Miah, Professor of Science Communication at The University of Salford**, said: "We are extremely proud to be lead educational sponsor of England's most popular science festival. In keeping with the Salford-Manchester tradition of breaking new ground and being

innovative, these 130 events add up to the boldest, most creative window into the amazing world of science you will encounter.”

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**For all PR enquiries/tickets and images: please contact Freelance PR – Rachel Furst, 07957 457668 or [rachelfurstcomms@gmail.com](mailto:rachelfurstcomms@gmail.com)/[rachel.furst@msimanchester.org.uk](mailto:rachel.furst@msimanchester.org.uk)**

**Notes to Editors:**

### **About Manchester Science Festival**

2016 marks the tenth birthday of Manchester Science Festival (MSF), produced by the Museum of Science and Industry. Billed as part laboratory, part playground, MSF is a showcase for the most creative, surprising and hands-on science, where people of all ages can participate, experience and be curious about the world around them. Last year the Festival staged 138 unique events, exhibitions and installations, delivered by 86 partners from the public, cultural, community and academic sectors across Greater Manchester. Last year’s event attracted around 120,000 participants over 11 days – making it England’s largest Science Festival. This year’s Festival marks the end of the city’s year-long role as European City of Science, and runs throughout half-term from Monday 20 October - Sunday 30 October. The Festival is supported by Siemens as part of the Curiosity Project; a three-year programme aimed at bringing science, technology, engineering and mathematics to life for young people across the UK. Siemens has been a long-term supporter of the museum, with a local office of 700 employees, many of whom volunteer at the Festival each year.

### **About the Museum of Science and Industry**

The Museum of Science and Industry tells the story of where science met industry and the modern world began. Manchester was one of the first global, industrial cities, and its epic rise, decline and resurrection has been echoed in countless other cities around the world. From textiles to computers, the objects and documents held in the museum’s collection tell stories of everyday life over the last 200 years, from light bulbs to locomotives. The museum’s mission is to inspire all its visitors, including future scientists and inventors, with the story of how ideas can change the world, from the industrial revolution to today and beyond.

The Museum of Science and Industry is part of the Science Museum Group, a family of museums which also includes the Science Museum in London; the National Railway Museum in York and Shildon; and the National Media Museum in Bradford. The Science Museum Group is devoted to the history and contemporary practice of science, medicine, technology, industry and media. With five million visitors each year and an unrivalled collection, it is the most significant group of museums of science and innovation worldwide.

### **About Siemens**

As a global technology and engineering powerhouse, Siemens is behind a diverse range of technologies and services; from rail systems and energy management, to factory automation. We energise the world, help industries run smoothly and create the digital tomorrow. Siemens employs around 14,000 people across 25 major locations in the UK, including 13 manufacturing sites. We are known for our engineering expertise and ingenious solutions, and proudly supports 500 UK apprentices to help us deliver those solutions. Visit [siemens.co.uk/ingenuityforlife](http://siemens.co.uk/ingenuityforlife) to find out more.

### **About the Curiosity Project**

The Curiosity Project is a three-year engagement programme by Siemens, aimed at bringing science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) to life for young people in the UK. This is to address the chronic shortage of engineers in the UK and inspire the next generation. Visit [siemens.co.uk/curiosity-project](http://siemens.co.uk/curiosity-project) for more information.

### **About the University of Salford**

The University of Salford draws on an iconic industrial heritage to offer real world learning and research experiences and create highly-employable graduates. Salford is ranked by the Sunday Times as one of the best 10 places for graduates to find work.

Leading in media and digital, engineering and health, Salford features in the QS World University Rankings for built environment and civil engineering, and won the Times Higher Business School of the Year Award in 2014.

The University works with more than 1,000 companies annually and was ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the UK in the Whitty Review for contacts with small-to-medium enterprises. With almost 20,000 students, many on practical, professionally-linked programmes, the University of Salford educates the highest number of people from low-participation backgrounds in the North West of England.

### **About Cape Farewell and the Lovelock Commission**

Cape Farewell is international environmental arts organisation that works to create an urgent cultural response to climate change. Launched in 2001 with a series of groundbreaking artist and scientist-manned expeditions to the Arctic, Cape Farewell has become an international not-for-profit programme that has supported over 400 artists creating new work, including exhibitions, installations, events, performances, talks, literature, poetry and films, amongst much else. Our four key strands of activity explore and engage people in the climate challenge through the lens of Energy and Pollution, Food and Landscape, Biodiversity, and the Gaia Principle. In 2015 Cape Farewell ran ArtCop21 - a major global festival to coincide with the monumental Paris Cop21 conference - drawing a live audience of over 900,000 in 54 countries worldwide and millions online.

Supported by the Arts Council and NERC, 'CLOUD CRASH' by artist duo HeHe is the third in the annual Cape Farewell 'Lovelock Art Commission' - inspired by the findings, writings and interventions of the famous scientist James Lovelock.

Cape Farewell's mission is to change the way people think about climate change, and to widely communicate, educate and inspire action. Cape Farewell engages with the world's greatest creative, scientific and visionary minds to pioneer the vital dialogue between science and art. We seek to lay the foundations of the non-carbon society we must all aspire to.

[www.capefarewell.com](http://www.capefarewell.com)

### **About NERC**

The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) is the UK's main agency for funding and managing research, training and knowledge exchange in the environmental sciences. Their work covers the full range of atmospheric, Earth, biological, terrestrial and aquatic science, from the deep oceans to the upper atmosphere and from the poles to the equator. They coordinate some of the world's most exciting research projects, tackling major issues such as climate change, environmental influences on human health, the genetic make-up of life on Earth, and much more. NERC is a non-departmental public body. They receive around £330m of annual funding from the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS).

[www.nerc.ac.uk](http://www.nerc.ac.uk)