

Press Release

25 February 2015

Revolution comes to Manchester

Call for proposals: EuroScience seeks scientific programme ideas for Manchester 2016

Representatives from the ESOF host city of Manchester and EuroScience - a grassroots association which acts on behalf of Europe's scientific community, are calling for session proposals to populate the science programme at ESOF 2016, Europe's largest general scientific conference.

ESOF 2016 (EuroScience Open Forum) takes place from 22-27 July in Manchester, the city where Marx met Engels and Rolls met Royce. Similarly ESOF 2016 will be a meeting of minds, bringing together many of the world's foremost scientific thinkers, innovators and scholars.

Playing on Manchester's unique history as the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution the theme for the event has been announced as 'science as revolution'.

This is the first time the event has been held in the UK and is made possible with the support of the Department of Business Innovation and Skills and Research Councils UK. Further sponsorship will be announced as preparations continue through 2015.

Prof. Luke Georghiou, Co-Champion of ESOF 2016 and Vice-Chancellor for Research & Innovation at the University of Manchester, said:

"Manchester is a city of firsts from splitting the atom to the passenger railway line, the programmable computer and the isolation of Graphene and as such we are delighted to be the first UK city to host Europe's foremost scientific meeting in July 2016.

"2016 is a special year for science in Manchester, as this is the year we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of John Dalton – the father of atomic theory. The EuroScience Open Forum will be the culmination of an 18 month celebration of science in our city.

"This programme is at the very heart of ESOF and I'm delighted that it is now open for submissions. We are looking forward to receiving and reviewing ideas and proposals from science, technology, medicine, arts, humanities and social science communities across the EU and beyond."

The call for proposals, recently launched at the AAAS meeting in San Jose, seeks submissions for science-based seminars, workshops and debates on the latest research and policy issues. It is an open invitation to individuals and organisations alike.

A core question throughout ESOF 2016 will be: how do we foster excellence in science as an agent for positive and transformative change, whilst also ensuring responsible research and innovation?

Respondents to the call for proposals are encouraged to bear this in mind when applying, as well as ensuring that their proposal sits under one of the nine headline themes:

- Healthy populations
- Material dimensions
- Sustaining the environment
- Turing's legacy - data and the human brain
- Far frontiers
- Living in the future
- Bio-revolution
- Science for policy and policy for science
- Science in our cultures

Prof. Jerzy Langer, Chair of the Programme Committee for ESOF 2016, said:

“Curiosity and serendipity is what drives the scientist's mind: thus the essence of science has always been about exploring and challenging the boundaries of our current knowledge and understanding. Something we believe is reflected in the broad range of subjects that we’re keen to explore in 2016 – from pandemics and particle physics to big data and bioscience.

“We hope this call will encourage leading thinkers and researchers from across the global scientific community to take a unique look and share with us how science and technology has the potential to transform our lives.”

Submissions for the call will officially open from Monday, 2 March 2015 with the deadline for the proposals on Monday, 1 June 2015 10am (GMT).

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Further the details of the call can be found on the ESOF 2016 website www.esof.eu

About ESOF: Beginning in 2004 and held every two years, the Euroscience Open Forum (ESOF) is a pan-European meeting dedicated to scientific research, education and innovation. The Forum aims to showcase the latest advances in science and technology, as well as promoting a dialogue on the role of science and technology in society and public policy. Each forum takes place in a different city and previous hosts have been Stockholm (2004), Munich (2006), Barcelona (2008), Turin (2010), Dublin (2012) and Copenhagen (2014) with the Forum attracting more than 4,500 delegates, with 600 speakers from over 70 countries.

ESOF incorporates a number of distinct strands of activity:

- A programme of seminars, workshops and debates on the latest science and technology
- A Media programme to promote science communication
- A Careers programme for young researchers
- A Science-2-Business programme to link basic research with industrial applications
- An exhibition to showcase the best of European public and private research
- A ‘Science in the City’ programme to engage with the general public
- An extended social programme for delegates

About EuroScience: EuroScience is a European non-profit grassroots association open to research professionals, teachers, students, science administrators, policy-makers, etc. and generally to any citizen interested in science and technology and its links with society. EuroScience represents not only European scientists of all ages, disciplines and nationalities but also from the business sector and public institutions such as universities and research institutes.

Prof. Luke Georghiou: Luke Georghiou is Vice-President for Research and Innovation at the University of Manchester where he is responsible for the University's research strategy and performance, business engagement and commercialisation activities. He holds the chair of Science and Technology Policy and Management. His research interests include evaluation of R&D and innovation policy (particularly in relation to the use of public procurement and other demand-side measures), foresight, national and international science policy, and management of innovation. He has chaired or been a member of several high profile committees including the Aho Group and the EC's Expert Group on ERA Rationales. He has an extensive list of publications including articles in Nature, Science and the Harvard Business Review. He is a member of the Academia Europaea.

Prof. Jerzy Langer: Jerzy Langer, Chair of ESOF 2016 Programme Committee, is a physics professor at the Institute of Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences. Fellow and former Foreign Secretary of Academia Europaea, Fellow of the American Physical Society and Founding Member and Honorary Vice President of Euroscience. Prof. Langer served as the key advisor to the President of Polish Academy of Sciences and as Deputy Minister of Science. Today he advises the Mayor of Wrocław on the academic and pro-innovative transformation of the third largest academic city in Poland. In 2012 become the President of the Management Board charged with creating the largest new research and innovation infrastructure in Poland – the Wrocław Research Centre EIT+.

For further information or media requests please contact:

Emma Pemberton-Eccles, Head of Communications and Marketing ESOF 2016

emma@esof2016.eu / 0161 238 4532