

## CHICAGO TRIP PRIZE WINNERS FROM FAREHAM SCHOOL TO BE JUDGED AT INTECH FINAL

'Space Confidential' Final to be Held at UK's biggest Planetarium mid-May

West Sussex, UK --- 6 May, 2008 --- Twenty year-ten pupils from Fareham, Hampshire, have battled for the past two months for the chance to win an all expenses paid trip to Chicago at the end of June. Managed and funded by Global Immersion, the 'Space Confidential' competition has seen the fourteen and fifteen year-old students working with Cams Hill Science Consortium and Professors from Arizona and Boston Universities to research extra-solar planet discovery and the potential existence of alien life. The winning pair will become ambassadors for Global Immersion, giving their presentation to over 600 astronomers, astrophysicists and lecturers at a world renowned industry conference this summer in Chicago.

Global Immersion supplied Cams Hill School with their real-time space flight software, Uniview, on March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008. As the UK's first and only school installation, Uniview interprets live data from NASA, ESA and the American Museum of Natural History to explore the known Universe in planetaria and on PC screens. Year-ten students at the school were then briefed to use the software as a tool for exploring the likelihood of planetary systems, similar to our own, existing within our Galaxy.



Since early March, the pupils have researched, practiced and recorded their ten-minute presentations in preparation for the grand final, due to be held at the INTECH Planetarium. The remaining six pairs will travel to Winchester on May 14<sup>th</sup> where they will give their fulldome presentations to an audience of friends, family, industry professionals and a prominent judging panel who will be looking for the most original, creative and scientifically inspiring production to send to the USA.

Accompanied by their parents, the winning pair will be flown to Chicago for a five-day expenses paid trip on June 28<sup>th</sup> 2008. The students will also be supplied with prize laptops that will be donated to Cams Hill School once they have returned. As representatives for Global Immersion, the pair will be set to give their Uniview extra-solar spaceflight presentation to over 600 delegates as part of the International Planetarium Society conference at the Adler Planetarium, Chicago ([www.ips2008.org](http://www.ips2008.org) | [www.adlerplanetarium.org](http://www.adlerplanetarium.org)).

Martin Howe, CEO of Global Immersion explained “The objective of this project has always been to encourage science education among all ages – showing how immersive theatre can be used as the perfect tool for really getting to grips with science and astronomy. Our installation at INTECH has a giant ultra-high resolution dome screen that really immerses you in the data – beating anything that you can have setup the classroom. It’s for this reason that it has become so much easier for the students to comprehend the level of scale within our Universe and produce these presentations.”

Matthew Newberry of Cams Hill School and Cams Hill Science Consortium, has been acting as Project Liaison Officer between Global Immersion and the students, working after hours with the pairs to research, produce and record the ten-minute full-dome planetarium flights using Uniview.

Speaking about the project, Matthew said “The work being produced here is beyond outstanding. The students have really been given free rein to explore their creative sides – the result of this creativity combined with their scientific capabilities is a set of planetarium shows that are good enough to show around the world!” Newberry continued; “Once the winning pair has been chosen, I’ll hand over to colleagues at the Arizona and Boston Universities where the students will receive coaching on their presentation skills and further tutoring on exoplanet discovery.”



At 16.5 metres in diameter, the INTECH Planetarium was designed and installed by Sussex-based immersive theatre integrator, Global Immersion, earlier this year. Opened to the public in March 2008, the UK’s newest and largest planetarium can seat 176 and shows a range of content ranging from astronomy and science visualisation through to musical presentations ([www.intech-uk.com](http://www.intech-uk.com)).

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## Note to Editors:

The Space Confidential final is being held at the INTECH Planetarium, Winchester, from 5.30-9.30pm on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2008. To register attendance for this event, please contact Beth Nicholas, Marketing Coordinator at Global Immersion. [beth.nicholas@globalimmersion.com](mailto:beth.nicholas@globalimmersion.com) | 0203 004 6541.

Professional photographs of the presentation evening can be supplied on request after the event for follow-up and post-event coverage.

## About Global Immersion

With over ten years experience in the world of full-dome displays and scientific data visualisation, Global Immersion combines a broad range of proven technologies to create enthralling and exciting immersive theatre. As a full-service team, they pull together exceptional theatre design, advanced projection technologies, content production, user-friendly controls and advanced audio & lighting – all on a digital infrastructure.