



Media Release

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Questacon celebrates best of European science

Take a look inside the Large Hadron Collider, explore the heavens with Galileo and recreate Leonardo Da Vinci's flying machines.

Visitors to Questacon – The National Science and Technology Centre can do all this and more in a week-long celebration of the best of European science and technology, *EuroScience at Questacon*, launched today.

The second annual *EuroScience at Questacon* programme runs from 13–17 July and features theatrical performances, interactive science shows, guest lectures and hands-on activities. The programme highlights the work of European scientists past and present in a fun, family-friendly experience.

EuroScience at Questacon is presented in collaboration with the Delegation of the European Union to Australia and The Australian National University Centre for European Studies (ANUCES).

Launching the programme, Questacon Director, Professor Graham Durant said *Euroscience at Questacon* would be an annual showcase.

"Last year's *Euroscience at Questacon* programme attracted over 1800 participants. We're pleased that this extended partnership allows us to again celebrate the ground-breaking science, innovation and research from this part of the world," Professor Durant said.

"Visitors can get an insight into the life and science of Marie Curie in a theatrical piece based on her notebooks and letters. Or they can learn how scientists from across the EU are working together with the Large Hadron Collider to uncover the secrets of the universe."

The EU's chargé d'affaires in Australia, Caroline Lambert, said the innovative programme not only appealed to families and budding researchers but also highlighted the EU's role as a world leader in research and innovation.

"*Euroscience at Questacon* will help inspire the youth of today to be the scientists of tomorrow to the benefit of us all," Ms Lambert said.

ANUCES Director Professor Jacqueline Lo said, "Our centre often showcases the EU from a social science and humanities perspective, so it's great to profile some of Europe's greatest scientific achievements to Questacon visitors."

Among the week's highlights is a chance to discover the electrifying life of Nikola Tesla, the man behind some of the most incredible electrical inventions in history.

Visitors can take a look at Europe's astronomy achievements from Galileo to the current missions of the European Space Agency.

In addition, *Q Lab* will feature demonstrations based on the discoveries of famous European scientists. Visitors can replicate Alessandro Volta's electrochemical battery using a lemon, or explore the science of sound based on experiments by Chladni, Rubens and Savart.

A free professional development workshop delivered on Wednesday 29 July at the Ian Potter Foundation Technology Learning Centre in Deakin will give teachers a suite of experiment ideas based on the work of Europe's most famous scientists that they can easily reproduce in their classroom.

The full *Euroscience at Questacon* programme is available at www.questacon.edu.au.

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