



BEAM ME UP STEVENAGE

Stevenage celebrates World Space Week October 6th – 8th, Business & Technology Centre (btc), Stevenage

STEVENAGE schools and businesses will celebrate [World Space Week](#) at the [Business & Technology Centre](#) (btc) from October 6th to 8th to mark the area's links to the international space industry, it was announced today.

World Space Week was launched by the UN General Assembly in 1999 on the anniversary of the launch of Sputnik in 1957 and the signing of the Treaty on the Peaceful Use of Space in 1967. It is now a prestigious annual event with celebrations taking place across the world.

Stevenage has a long established link to the international space industry through Europe's leading space company [EADS Astrium](#) which has a major production facility locally and is one of the key organisers of the World Space Week event.

More than 500 students from local primary and secondary schools including Barclay, Barnwell, Almond Hill and Round Diamond will enjoy a short play on the impact of space in everyday life and take part in fun, practical space challenges led by space scientists and engineers.

They will also see an exhibition from a range of innovative local organisations based at the btc and meet Bruno, the prototype Mars Rover being developed by Astrium.

Patrick Wood, Chief Technology Officer at Astrium UK, said: "Space is a vital part of our daily lives and we are increasingly reliant on space technology in a number of areas such as global telecommunications, predicting the weather and understanding climate change.

"World Space Week is a great way to enthuse and inspire the next generation of Stevenage's space scientists and engineers."

Cllr Sharon Taylor, Leader of [Stevenage Borough Council](#), added: "With its involvement in space dating back to the early 1950s, Stevenage is widely known as the home of the UK Space Industry and so is just the right place to host this exciting event.

"World Space Week will celebrate the important contribution to the exploration and use of space made by the people and businesses of Stevenage."

Greg Thomas, Innovation Manager at the btc, said: "It is vital that Stevenage continues to play a central role in the growth of innovative businesses and that the right skills and talents are nurtured locally. This event will highlight the giant leaps forward we are making in that direction."

Sarah Brewer, Director of educational charity [SETPOINT Hertfordshire](#), added: "World Space Week is a great opportunity for local students to see and experience at first-hand how exciting science, technology, engineering and maths can be.

"They will meet and hear from world-famous scientists and engineers and hopefully come away full of ideas and inspiration for their own future career plans."

The University of Hertfordshire and North Hertfordshire College will be on hand alongside a number of local companies to discuss Higher Education and careers opportunities in the space sector.

Further information on World Space Week is available from [the innovation space](#) web site

Ends

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Notes to Editor

- The btc is owned by Stevenage Borough Council and managed by Wenta Innovation, a division of Wenta one of the leading Enterprise Agencies in the East of England.
- The btc was re-launched in November 2009 following a multi million pound development to transform the centre into the primary Innovation and Technology Centre in Hertfordshire, aimed at supporting knowledge based businesses and promoting innovation within the local community. This exciting new development is the Council's vision to create quality business space and support in the heart of the town's business community and it is part of a £7M investment funded jointly by the Council and EEDA, the Regional Development Agency and the Government Growth Area Fund.
- The btc is the longest serving Enterprise Hub within the region promoting networking, the sharing of knowledge and cross trading. Working to develop innovation and inspire enterprise. The btc also works with local schools, colleges, regional agencies, other enterprise hubs and universities to offer educational visits, work experience, mentoring and training.
- Wenta is a not for profit organisation independently funded through the ownership and management of its two business centres in Watford and Potters Bar and management of the btc in Stevenage. These business centres comprise workshops and offices with a combined space of over 100,000 square feet, let on monthly licence terms to small businesses. Wenta also attract funding from a number of public sector organisations including Business Link East, Job Centre Plus, local authorities in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire and EEDA.
- In addition to incubation and managed workspace Wenta's service offering includes business advice, business incubation centres (My Incubator) guidance, training, graduate and undergraduate work placements and a comprehensive enterprise awareness programme to schools, colleges, and universities.