

## Star Wars teaser boosts Disney value by US\$2bn

Disney's share value has jumped US\$2bn (€1.85bn, £1.33bn) following the release of the teaser trailer for upcoming movie *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, promising huge value in the IP's relaunch and upcoming attractions.

The two-minute clip, which sent the internet into a spin with a glimpse of returning characters Han Solo and Chewbacca, was released to the public on 16 April as part of a four-day *Star Wars* celebration event taking place in Anaheim, California.

The trailer offers a throwback to the previous *Star Wars* films – with a Luke Skywalker



*Star Wars Episode VII* comes to cinemas worldwide December 2015

monologue, shot of Darth Vader's destroyed helmet, army of Storm Troopers and a crashed Star Destroyer – also providing a first

look at the new characters set to be part of the franchise.

Disney purchased production company Lucasfilm

and the *Star Wars* brand in 2012 for US\$4bn (€3.7bn, £2.7bn).

Disney CEO Bob Iger said that a raft of new attractions coming to Disney's theme parks would be based on the new sequels and any subsequent spin-offs, not the older films in the franchise. At the time, Disney temporarily halted development on the as-of-yet unannounced attractions so as to make them as close in detail to the new films as possible.

Following the trailer's release, stock in Walt Disney went into overdrive, reaching a high of US\$108.30 (€100.49, £72.35) a share – representing a near US\$2bn jump in value.

More: [http://lei.sr?a=3F8S9\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=3F8S9_A)

## Merlin breaks ground on Nagoya's Legoland Japan

The building blocks are being put together in Nagoya, Japan, as construction work has started on the country's first Legoland theme park.

Merlin CEO Nick Varney was on-hand at the groundbreaking ceremony for the US\$315m (€292m, £210m) attraction and said: "We look forward to working closely with [Nagoya] as the project progresses, and have no doubt that this region and the City of Nagoya will become a major family leisure destination both for Japanese and international visitors."

More: [http://lei.sr?a=4d7Y7\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=4d7Y7_A)

## France spends €56m on prehistoric art recreation

The French government has spent €56m (US\$60m, £40.2m) recreating an exact replica of a cave discovered in 1994 containing a huge collection of prehistoric paintings of horses, mammoths and rhinos – among the oldest documented pieces on earth.

The works – preserved thanks to a rock fall roughly 23,000 years ago – were quickly closed off to the public after their discovery on the basis that something as simple as breathing could erode the unique prehistoric gallery. As a result the French government, along with a group of engineers, artists and scientists, have been working since 2012 to create an identical replica just 2km (1.2m) away from the original site.



The originals have been expertly recreated

The replica Grotte Chauvet-Pont d'Arc was unveiled by French President François Hollande on 17 April ahead of its public opening at the end of April.

Continued on back cover

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## Sao Paulo Aquarium welcomes Brazil's first polar bears in US\$5m expansion

The largest aquarium in Latin America has welcomed Brazil's first polar bears as the stars of its R\$15m (US\$5m, €4.6m, £3.3m) expansion.

The two Russian polar bears are the premier attraction in Sao Paulo Aquarium's new mammal wing, with the pair going on display for the first time on 16 April. The four and five-year-old bears have been introduced to a specially climatized area, which covers 1,500sq m (16,000sq ft) and will continuously remain at temperatures between -5°C and -15°C (-49°F and -59°F).

The polar bears are joined in the new mammal



The Polar Bears have come from Kazan Zoo in Russia

enclosure by lemurs, meerkats, wallabies and wombats, with the aquarium's vets and biologists being given training abroad to handle the new species.

Set designer Lee Oliveira worked on the design of the

enclosures, combining with biologists to create bespoke environments that matched the needs of each animal, while also theming them for visitors.

More: [http://lei.sr?a=r5m7q\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=r5m7q_A)

## Lego waterpark is latest addition to UAE's AED10bn Dubai mega resort

Already building a Legoland theme park as part of the upcoming Dubai Parks and Resorts development in the UAE, Merlin Entertainment has confirmed that the AED10bn (US\$2.7bn, €2.5bn, £1.8bn) mega-development will also include a Lego waterpark in its lineup.

With Legoland Dubai under development and scheduled to open in 2016, the new Lego waterpark will include a wave pool, Build-A-Raft River and Imagination Station – where guests can construct Lego bridges, dams and cities and test their designs against the flow of water.

“We look forward to welcoming families to this



Lego's popular Build-A-Raft River will feature in the park

immersive and interactive attraction, where children can create, build, and learn while having fun,” said Raed Al Nuaimi, CEO of Dubai Parks and Resorts. “With the addition of the

Legoland waterpark to our existing offering, we will now have a destination that boasts six major parks, which together have over 100 rides and attractions.”

More: [http://lei.sr?a=r2h2v\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=r2h2v_A)



# Indoor park could save Houston's Astrodome

A new report from the Urban Land Institute (ULI) has suggested turning Houston, Texas' Astrodome into a multi-use indoor park, complete with zip-lines and bike trails.

The dome's future looked to be in jeopardy when voters rejected a US\$217m (€202m, £147m) proposal to turn the venue into a multi-purpose convention centre in late 2013. But the new plan could breathe life into the vast domed structure, which first opened in 1965 and has hosted baseball, football, live musicians and wrestling among other things. The ageing structure was closed down in 2008, with the Astrodome breaching multiple building code violations.

The dome is on the US National Register of Historic Places, meaning that any potential investor would receive tax breaks for preserving the property. The ULI report is compiled by a panel of experts from the fields of architecture, urban planning, land use and more. Suggestions include a ground-level open space that could host an array of activities including an adventure park, indoor



The Astrodome first opened in 1965 and is now on the US National Register of Historic Places

track, zip lines and mountain bike trails. An agricultural approach has also been touted.

However, the plan still has a major hurdle to cross in that funding has not yet materialised.

The ULI proposal has been valued at US\$242m (€225m, £164m), US\$25m (€23.2m, £17m) more than the voter-rejected proposal in 2013.

*More: [http://lei.sr?a=A7n7J\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=A7n7J_A)*

## Australian competition invites kids to create state park using *Minecraft*

An Australian national park could be designed by primary school pupils using the video game *Minecraft*.

The government of South Australia has launched a competition asking students to create their perfect national park using the popular game, or to suggest changes to an existing state park.

*Minecraft* allows players to build constructions out of textured cubes in a 3D pixelated world.

With AU\$8.9m (\$6.9m, €6.4m, £4.6m) set aside for park projects, the winning designs could potentially be brought to life, according to the Adelaide and Mount Lofty



*Minecraft* is being used to engage kids in a range of projects

Ranges natural resources management board, which is running the competition.

It said design elements could include trails for bushwalking, mountain biking or horse riding,

barbecue and picnic areas, wheelchair accessible areas, campgrounds, scenic lookouts, adventure playgrounds, interpretive trails, or places to launch canoes.

*More: [http://lei.sr?a=k8y2t\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=k8y2t_A)*



Trento's MUSE will host the event

## Italy's MUSE to host 2015 edition of Ecsite

The European Network of Science Centres and Museums (Ecsite) is set to descend on the MUSE (Museo delle Scienze) in Trento, Italy, for its 2015 annual conference.

From 11 to 13 June, 1,000 delegates from the science centre community are expected at the Ecsite conference, which marks its 26th edition this year.

This year's overriding theme is Food for Curious Minds – which chimes with the topic of the 2015 Milan Expo: Feed the Planet, Energy for Life.

*More: [http://lei.sr?a=e8M5U\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=e8M5U_A)*

# Dragonball science exhibition to tour Japan

An exhibition combining science and the popular *Dragonball* IP is coming to Tokyo's Fuji TV building for the start of a Japanese tour.

The *Making Science With Dragonball* exhibit runs between 29 April and 10 May and is sponsored by Fuji TV, the network in Japan which airs the popular anime show.

Aiming to encourage kids' interest in science, the exhibition combines *Dragonball* with scientific tasks in a series of interactive exhibits.

One of the most interesting features will be the Kinto-Un simulator, which encourages users "to move Goku's cloud using only the power of their pure and positive hearts". Guests will be fitted with an EEG (Electroencephalography) designed to measure alpha waves in the brain. If the user thinks calm thoughts, the cloud will move.

One of the iconic *Dragonball* fighting moves is the Kamehameha – an energy attack. For the exhibition, guests will be able to use technology to summon their own version of the magical attack using motion-tracking technology to create an on-screen visual projected onto a wall.



The exhibition will combine the show with science-related tasks in a series of exhibits

This will be the exhibit's second outing in Japan after its debut at Nagoya City Science Museum in 2014 and also in Taiwan earlier this year. Following its success, *Making Science*

*With Dragonball* will visit both Osaka and Tokyo in 2015, with the Osaka exhibit taking place between 18 July and 31 August.

More: [http://lei.sr?a=H3w2N\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=H3w2N_A)



The new *Avengers* movie is now out

## Avengers ride previewed at Dubai comic convention

The Ilyas & Mustafa Galadari Group, developers of the IMG Worlds of Adventure theme park in Dubai, have revealed plans for a new *Avengers* ride, allowing attendees at the Middle East Film and Comic Con 2015 to preview the upcoming attraction using Oculus Rift.

"Avengers: Battle of Ultron will blend cutting-edge 3D media with a highly-detailed, realistic physical set and explosive special effects designed to create a fully-immersive experience," said a spokesperson for the group.

More: [http://lei.sr?a=Q9r3J\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=Q9r3J_A)

## Cleveland Museum of Natural History approves Fentress' US\$150m masterplan

Colorado-based architectural firm Fentress have revealed final plans for the US\$150m (€138m, £99m) renovation and expansion of Cleveland's Museum of Natural History after gaining approval from the museum's board of trustees.

The plan, which aims to better integrate nature and science into exhibitions, is soon to enter the US\$20m (€18m, £13.2m) first phase and will increase the museum's space to 200,000sq ft (18,500sq m), up from 68,000sq ft (6,300sq ft). The full redevelopment is expected to be completed by 2020 – the year of the



The Fentress masterplan will be completed by 2020

museum's 100th anniversary. The first phase will see construction of a wildlife centre featuring plants and animals native to Ohio, a landscaped garden and amenities.

A team made up of engineering consultant BuroHappold, AECOM, and Cleveland-based Osborn Engineering are also working on the project.

More: [http://lei.sr?a=e5x3s\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=e5x3s_A)



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# WAZA suspends JAZA over Taiji dolphin hunts

The Japanese Association of Zoos and Aquariums (JAZA) has been suspended by the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) over the body's involvement in highly controversial dolphin hunts.

WAZA chose to suspend JAZA following a unanimous vote by its council. The world zoo and aquarium body was the target of conservationists last month, who accused the body of approving dolphin hunting by association, which sees the creatures forced into shallow waters before being slaughtered or caught for public display in aquariums.

Japan's Taiji dolphin hunts have gained notoriety in recent times thanks to documentary film *The Cove*, which shows the brutal manner in which the highly-intelligent cetaceans are being hunted. JAZA represents aquariums which have taken dolphins from these hunts. The body also rejected a WAZA proposal for a two-year suspension on the practice.

"JAZA responded (to the suspension) by proposing guideline changes that would



WAZA found itself the target of conservationists in March, who opposed its support of JAZA

put restrictions on the method of capturing dolphins and improving animal care, but because it did not restrict taking animals from the drive, WAZA has concluded that a

satisfactory agreement could not be reached and voted to suspend the Japanese association's membership," said a WAZA statement.

More: [http://lei.sr?a=s5c7m\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=s5c7m_A)



Three rides now include the devices

## Universal metal detectors made permanent addition

Following a successful trial period in March and April, Universal Orlando has now made metal detectors outside three of the park's roller-coasters a permanent addition in an attempt to improve ride safety.

Designed to keep riders and onlookers safe from flying objects, passengers are scanned with a metal wand before boarding and can then safely store keys, phones and change – items prohibited by the park while on rides – in free lockers at the ride station.

More: [http://lei.sr?a=6W9H7\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=6W9H7_A)

## Mather & Company to design £7.7m Royal Mint visitor centre in Wales

Design consultancy Mather has been awarded the contract for the upcoming £7.7m (US\$11.3m, €10.6m) interactive visitor centre at the Royal Mint in Llantrisant, Wales.

Providing exhibition design and management services, Mather will produce an interactive museum experience that will explore the history of the Royal Mint, showcasing more than 1,100 years of coin manufacturing.

This is the first time in its history that the site – which produces 90 million coins each week for 60 different countries – has ever officially opened its doors to the public. The purpose-built



The centre will look at 1,100 years of coin manufacturing

visitor centre will also house a retail shop, café, educational rooms and a 'strike your own coin' experience.

The project, which is expected to attract 200,000 visitors annually, is due

to be completed in Q1 of 2016. The visitor centre has been made possible, in part, through a £2.3m (US\$3.4m, €3.2m) grant from the Welsh government.

More: [http://lei.sr?a=W3r3e\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=W3r3e_A)



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PHOTO: MUSEO DELLE SCIENZE

MUSE science museum in Trento, Italy, provides a striking setting for the Ecsite conference

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The Themed Entertainment Association's (TEA) Europe and Middle East Division will hold a SATE (Storytelling, Architecture, Technology, Experience) Academy Day in June. Following the theme of storytelling, the member-only three-day event costs €50 (US\$54, £36). Tel: +1 818 843 8497  
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The cinema provides an array of exciting special effects

### Ireland's Tayto Park gets Simworx 5D cinema

Dinosaurs and cowboys will feature in a new 5D special effects cinema installed by Simworx at an Irish theme park.

Ready for the start of the 2015 season, the new attraction at Tayto Park in Co. Meath features 48 seats and a three degrees of freedom motion base, providing left, right, forwards and backwards motion.

The cinema, housed in a new building, also features a range of special effects including water spray, air blasts, leg ticklers, bubbles and special effects lighting. A Christie digital projection system is utilised.

Tayto Park will initially run two different films in the cinema, providing a choice of five or ten minute movies.



The Triotech attraction is put through its paces at Fort Fun

### Triotech installs interactive theatre at German park

German theme park Fort Fun Abenteuerland has had an interactive theatre attraction from Triotech installed.

The Canadian company's 'XD Dark Ride', which won IAAPA's Brass Ring Award for Best New Product in 2013, will serve as the regional park's major new attraction for the 2015 season. The park is located in Bestwig, Germany.

The 16-seat attraction is called 'FoXDome' and has been designed to fit into the park's American Wild West theming.

Fort Fun, which receives about 300,000 visitors per year, will also have access to Triotech's library of exclusive interactive content movies, which includes 'Los Banditos', 'Zombies', and its latest release 'Gigamon'.



WhiteWater has installed three play areas at the theme park

### Firefighter-themed play zones spark Silver Dollar City

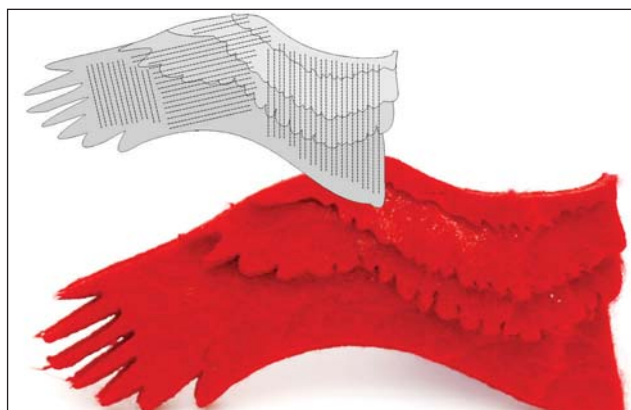
WhiteWater Attractions has supplied three interactive play zones as part of a new themed area at Silver Dollar City in Missouri, US.

The theme park's 'Fireman's Landing' features 10 attractions areas and is styled as an 1880s volunteer recruitment fair.

The three play zones installed by WhiteWater include 'Firefighter's Fire

Drill', in which children use interactive blasters, vacuums and cannons that propel, throw and dump thousands of foam balls to put out mock fires, and 'Firefighter's Junior Fire Escape', a soft play area for toddlers.

The \$8m (€7.4m, £5.3m) themed area makes use of a previously undeveloped region of the theme park.



Test objects were used to demonstrate the printer's potential

### Disney prototype allows for 3D printing in fabric

Disney's research division has developed a new type of 3D printer that works with off-the-shelf fabric to create precise, but soft and deformable, 3D objects.

Developed by Disney Research in collaboration with Carnegie Mellon University, the "layered fabric" printer employs an approach where a sheet of fabric forms

each layer of a 3D object. The prototype printer is multi-material and can integrate two types of fabric into a single object, including harder materials and electronic components, giving rise to the potential for adding touch sensitivity or LED displays – creating custom objects on demand that are also interactive electrical objects.

# Heritage engineering scheme wins Europa Nostra

A Newcastle-based heritage training scheme, designed to protect the North East of England's rich engineering heritage, has been awarded a prestigious Europa Nostra Award.

First launched in 2002 by the European Commission, the European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra Awards were created to promote excellence, inspire and stimulate the exchange of best practice in heritage across the continent.

The Heritage Skills Initiative (HSI) won in the category of education and training, beating out 263 nominees from 29 countries. The HSI scheme was launched in 2006 as a response to lack of heritage craftspeople able to maintain the region's engineering heritage. Not only does the scheme provide training in traditional heritage skills, but it also works with students, teachers, charities and other organisations to promote educational opportunities and heritage training skills. In addition, the body awards bursaries to help with training for the region's heritage engineering, such as its steam trains.



The HSI scheme aims to keep the North East of England's rich engineering heritage alive

Since its inception, HSI has provided 200,000 hours of training to 43,000 people. The scheme says that 91 per cent of its engineering trainees continued into heritage

and engineering employment, while 400 children from 25 schools aged 13 to 15 have taken part in educational sessions.

More: [http://lei.sr?a=n6x7q\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=n6x7q_A)



Puss was on-hand at the ride's debut

## Universal's *Puss in Boots* ride comes to Singapore

Universal Studios Singapore at Resorts World Sentosa has debuted a new Puss in Boots rollercoaster, headlining the park's five year anniversary celebrations.

Designed by Zamperla, the suspended rollercoaster is the latest addition to the park's Far Away Shrek-themed area. 'Puss in Boots Giant Journey' has a themed narrative, developed over the last two years, which follows the story of being chased with the golden egg through a giant's castle.

More: [http://lei.sr?a=z7d8D\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=z7d8D_A)

## Chemical confusion leads to death of 400 fish at Texas State Aquarium

A mislabelled chemical has been blamed for the loss of more than a tenth of Texas State Aquarium fish.

As per the aquarium's protocol, the commonly-used parasite treatment, Trichlorfon, was tested for mass use in a smaller tank. With no ill effects on the fish, staff treated the larger tanks with what was supposedly the same chemical but from a different, identically labelled, container.

The result was that 400 fish died overnight. Initial tests carried out by the aquarium after the investigation show that the chemical used was actually



Staff worked through the night to try and save affected fish

hydroquinone – a chemical used as a stabiliser in paint and motor fuel, and for film processing. In living creatures, the chemical causes blood poisoning and acts as a carcinogen.

"We are in the process of removing any trace of the toxin," said an aquarium statement. "Once we have established the water is safe, we will add new fish."

More: [http://lei.sr?a=a8f6M\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=a8f6M_A)



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Dianne Eade, Newquay Zoo  
Head of Finance, Human Resources and Administration



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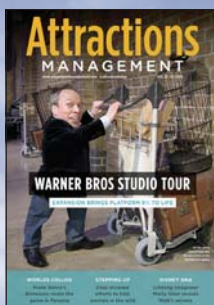
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### ■ Director of Operations

Company: Merlin Entertainments Group Ltd

Location: New York-New York, United States

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Company: Madame Tussauds New York

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Company: Gardaland Resort

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Company: Museum of Science and Industry

Location: Manchester, United Kingdom

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Company: Warner Bros. Studio Tour London

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Company: Lake District Estates

Location: Kendal

### ■ Bars and Events Manager

Company: Planning Solutions Limited

Location: Burton Upon Trent

### ■ Operations Manager

Company: Museum of Science and Industry

Location: Bradford , United Kingdom

### ■ HR Co-ordinator (Mobility)

Company: Merlin Entertainments Group Ltd

Location: Poole, United Kingdom

## Expert team contracted for recreation of 27,000-year old French cave paintings

*Continued from front cover*

Created from a 3D scan of the cave by Perazio Engineering, the replica Grotte Chauvet covers an area of 3,000sq m (32,300sq ft). Architecture firms Fabre-Speller and Atelier3A worked on the masterplan, while Franck Neau operated as landscape architect for the cave, co-ordinating with Campenon Bernard Regions and Vinci Construction France on the building work.

Work started in Q3 of 2012 and was completed in March 2015. Of the €55m (US\$60m, £40.2m) investment, the Rhône-Alpes regional government and the Department of the Ardeche



Something as simple as human breath could erode the originals

each gave €14.7m (US\$15.8m, £10.5m), while the French State contributed €12.2m (US\$13m, £8.8m), Europe gave €9.9m (US\$10.6m, £7.1m) and €3.5m (US\$3.6m, £2.5m) came from heritage body Rossillon Kléber.

The 27,000-year-old cave is one of France's most important historical relics and was recognised by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site in June 2014.

*More: [http://lei.sr?a=J4T2U\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=J4T2U_A)*

## Tech start-up company MMOne bids to revolutionise virtual reality market

A Ukraine-based development company has revealed plans for an interactive entertainment attraction that works with a virtual reality headset and a gamepad to deliver a full-motion interactive experience.

Andrew Borisov and his co-founder have invested US\$500,000 (€462,500, £333,000) over the past three years to develop the MMOne concept, which is the only one on the market to combine virtual reality and dynamic movement to create a totally immersive virtual experience.

"We did integrations with two titles about a rollercoaster and the result was stunning," said Borisov



US\$500,000 has been spent developing the MMOne tech

speaking exclusively to AM2. "If you use Oculus Rift to simulate a rollercoaster ride, the result is you come off not feeling very good because your body can't make sense of what's going on. The point of

MMOne is that you are almost like an Avatar from the films. All the movements you experience in virtual reality are replicated in the chair so you can feel complete immersion.

*More: [http://lei.sr?a=u9h4z\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=u9h4z_A)*

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