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17 MAY 2017 ISSUE 78

Girl dies after falling from water ride at Drayton Manor Park

An 11-year-old girl has died after an incident on a water ride at Drayton Manor Park in Drayton Bassett, Staffordshire, UK.

Named by police as Evha Jannath, the girl was at the theme park as part of a school trip. Emergency services were called to the site at 2.20pm on 9 May after the girl fell from the park's Splash Canyon ride.

A police statement said: "Evha sadly died after falling from a water ride at the theme park. She was recovered from the water and received advanced life support from ambulance crews before she was flown to Birmingham children's hospital where she later passed away."

Reports have suggested that the girl stood up during the ride, where up to six people sit



Police attended the scene at Drayton Manor, where the girl died

in a large round inflatable raft. It is suggested she hit her head and fell into the rough waters. The police have said a Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigation has begun.

"The tragic events on Tuesday have shaken the whole Drayton Manor family from the board, through to staff and visitors," said a Drayton Manor statement, with the park remaining closed to the public until 12 May to allow the HSE to complete its work.

"Our thoughts continue to be with the family and all those who have been affected by Tuesday's incident," concluded the statement.

The Intamin-produced ride has been in operation since 1993. Comprising 21 boats, it is described as a river rapids attraction. To use

the ride, visitors must be taller than 90cms (2.9ft) and anyone shorter than 1.1m (3.6ft) must be accompanied by an adult.

More: http://lei.sr?a=J5Z8m_A

BBC teams with top institutions for Tomorrow's World reboot

The BBC is partnering with a number of UK institutions and charities to launch a year-long season of science and technology programming under the broadcaster's iconic Tomorrow's World banner, resurrected as a masthead for the initiative.

Backed by the likes of famed scientist and broadcaster Brian Cox, the BBC will team up with the Science Museum Group, Wellcome, The Royal Society and the Open University to help ensure that Britain remains a driving force for both technology and innovation in the years to come.

Connecting the BBC's audiences with the brightest minds and institutions in science and technology, Tomorrow's World will produce more than 40 hours of television, a range of programmes



Brian Cox is a backer of the ambitious scheme

across the BBC's radio networks, a series of podcasts, and digital offerings, made in collaboration with its partners.

For the Science Museum Group, a live show titled *Britain's Greatest Invention* will air from the group's venues, with a public vote determining which inventions have been of most influence and importance in their lifetime.

A digital hub will be at the heart of the campaign, bringing together some of the most respected science institutions from across the UK for the first time. Curated daily, and featuring content from across the group partnership, with the aim of creating a greater and more profound understanding of science in the wider public.

More: http://lei.sr?a=t6a8B_A

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Annual subscription rates are UK £31

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AM2 is published fortnightly by The Leisure Media Company Limited, Portmill House, Portmill Lane, Hitchin, Herts SG5 1DJ, UK and is distributed in the USA by SPP, 75 Aberdeen Road, Emigsville, PA 17318-0437. Periodicals postage paid @ Manchester, PA POSTMASTER Send US address changes to Spa Opportunities, c/o PO Box 437, Emigsville, PA 17318-0437. The views expressed in print are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the publisher The Leisure Media Company Limited. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recorded or otherwise without the prior permission of the copyright holder. Printed by Preview Cromatic Ltd. ©Cybertrek Ltd 2016 ISSN Print: 2055-8171 Digital: 2055-818X



The museum was originally set for Chicago before the plans collapsed due to opposition

George Lucas' LA museum finally approved

The Los Angeles Planning Commission has officially approved Star Wars creator George Lucas' plans to build the long-gestating Lucas Museum of Narrative Art in Exposition Park.

The decision was finalised on 11 May, according to news service *NBC Los Angeles*.

New renderings and information released by Lucas and MAD Architects, who have designed the spacecraft-like

museum, reveal the latest iteration of the green lit legacy project.

The museum will have five storeys and cover 300,000sq ft (27,800sq m).

It will house exhibition spaces and galleries, a cafe and top-floor restaurant, two theatres, office space, lecture halls, a library and classrooms.

More: http://lei.sr?a=J4A2j_A

IPs and investment key to growing parks business, says Disney's Iger

Disney chair Bob Iger has said the company must continue to incorporate its most popular IPs into its parks in order to help grow its business.

Speaking during an earnings call, Iger said that some of Disney's most significant projects were IP-led, and that those projects had to potential to deliver large returns on investments into its theme parks.

"In terms of increasing attendance, we are continuing to infuse the parks with more of our IPs – *Frozen* coming to Hong Kong being a great example of that – as well as the likes of *Guardians of the Galaxy* and *Star Wars*. The demand for our parks has gone up as people have engaged more and more with our popular IPs," said Iger

"The movies we make are perfect for consumption on the big screen and we've



Guardians of the Galaxy is being used for a new Disney ride

also created global phenomenon with our films where the people seem to all want to go see them en masse as witnessed by results from *Guardians of the Galaxy 2*.

"We have a great opportunity to grow our parks business by mining these great IPs made by our studios."

More: http://lei.sr?a=y9y4A_A

‘One brand worldwide’: SeaWorld says no to orcas overseas

SeaWorld CEO Joel Manby has confirmed the operator’s commitment to becoming an orca-free enterprise, telling shareholders that the company would not even consider having killer whales in any of its international endeavours.

SeaWorld’s largest shareholder, Blackstone, recently sold its 21 per cent stake in the theme park operator to Chinese investors Zhonghong Zhuoye Group, with the deal including an agreement to develop future themed entertainment destinations, including theme parks, waterparks and FECs across Asia.

Having already made a commitment to end orca captivity at its parks in the US and announcing that its Abu Dhabi venture on Yas Island would be its first orca-free park, Manby said definitively that SeaWorld would not be using the animals for any of its international ventures.

When asked if SeaWorld would consider having orcas in its international parks, Manby replied “no”.

“As far as going into China, we will have one



SeaWorld says its current generation of orcas will be the last held under its captivity

brand worldwide,” he said, speaking during an earnings call. “We’ve talked in detail with the new board members and the new owners. They know our strategy. They support it. Many of the animal issues that have happened in the US are already happening there.

“In China, we will be a leader in that cause. We will be ahead of the curve, not in the middle of the tip of the spear, so to speak. We know our direction and so do our partners.”

More: http://lei.sr?a=8u6y2_A

NASA grants science center US\$1.2m for hospital STEM scheme

NASA has awarded the Orlando Science Center in Florida a US\$1.2m (€1.1m, £930,000) grant to develop a programme using mobile exhibit carts to educate critically-ill children in hospitals.

Partnering with planetary science experts and a team of researchers from the University of Central Florida (UCF) headed by Megan Nickels, the STEM-driven activities will be used to help shorten the learning gap created during hospitalisation.

According to NASA, the project will incorporate data and artefacts from the space agency, as well as UCF science collections and resources from Kennedy Space Center, with the experiences replicating current and planned NASA missions, while also tackling engineering problems in space exploration.

“Children with critical illness can struggle with formal education due to the fact that their hospitalisation keeps them from engaging in active study and attending classes” said Orlando Science Center president and CEO JoAnn Newman.



Megan Nickels is creating the mobile science and technology carts with Orlando Science Center

“These engaging mobile exhibits will help motivate these children to pursue STEM learning and careers. Providing high level engaging and authentic STEM activities to this audience through mobile exhibits is unprecedented.”

Aimed at children aged between 10 and 18, the exhibit carts will debut in Q3 2018

at the Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children, Nemours Children’s Hospital and the Florida Hospital for Children.

Each hospital will eventually have three of the mobile carts, which are space themed and include diagnostic tools, computers and virtual reality equipment.

More: http://lei.sr?a=b8Q8S_A

Economic benefits of LGBT tourism highlighted by UNWTO

The United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) has released its second global report on LGBT tourism, underlining the potential of the market and how to effectively maximise its value.

The report offers an extensive analysis, examining the current state of LGBT tourism around the world and the advancements that have been made towards securing equal rights for LGBT people in recent years.

“LGBT travellers have become recognised as a segment that travels with greater frequency and demonstrates higher-than-average patterns of spending,” said the report.

“Social change and improvements in the legal recognition and protection of LGBT people around the world have meant that LGBT consumers have gradually become more visible and with this, more easily targeted as a consumer segment.”

Offering guidelines on how to understand and engage with the LGBT market, the report concludes that operators



36 million LGBT overnight visitors travelled to international destinations last year

and tourism bodies should encourage LGBT inclusion and diversity among all destination stakeholders, carry out research to be shared with destination partners, recognise that relationships with

the LGBT community should be authentic and not just a marketing scheme, and to work in partnership with local businesses and the wider LGBT community.

More: http://lei.sr?a=H2y3j_A



Shanghai Disney won several Theas

TEA seeks nominations for 2018 Thea Awards

The Themed Entertainment Association (TEA) has opened up nominations for the 2018 Thea Awards.

Recognising outstanding attractions, technologies or guest experiences that exemplify the value of globally engaging themed entertainment and experience design, Thea winners will be announced in November at this year's IAAPA conference in Orlando, Florida.

With a nomination deadline set for 7 July, nominations can be submitted by anyone, whether or not a TEA member, including potential Thea

More: http://lei.sr?a=f7Q6M_A

Zoo that oversaw 500 animal deaths in four years granted new license

A UK zoo that saw almost 500 animals die in its care in less than four years has been granted a new license to operate following a takeover from its previous owner.

The Cumbria Zoo Company Ltd (CZCL) – a group formed by staff at the South Lakes Safari Zoo in Dalton – had instigated a “change of culture” according to inspectors, after leasing the zoo from founder David Gill for an initial six-month period.

Reports had suggested that Barrow Council were considering prosecuting Gill under the Animal Welfare Act for allowing animals to suffer.

CZCL will run the zoo completely independently of him, and the latest inspector report praised the level of staff “engagement, dedication and enthusiasm



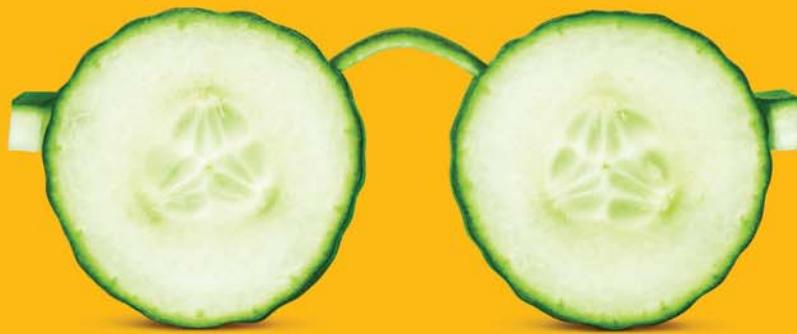
Inspectors say CZCL have instigated a “change of culture”

and ambitious plans to move forward now that the owner is no longer involved”.

Between 2013 and 2016, 486 animals died at the zoo – accounting for almost 12 per cent of its population. Causes of death included emaciation, hypothermia and electrocution.

More: http://lei.sr?a=v5z9t_A

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Pro Surfer Filipe Toldo trialled the Wavegarden Cove

Wavegarden makes waves with new surfing cove

Wavegarden has released the Wavegarden Cove, a modular system that creates customisable waves for surfing enthusiasts miles away from the ocean.

The result of years of dynamics research over movement of fluids, the Cove can generate up to 1,000 waves per hour, varying from knee-high rides to powerful barrelling waves with heights of up to 2.4 metres.

It features patented bathymetric technology that can create multiple surf areas and allow currents to circulate without impacting wave quality.

The innovative system is able to produce a wide variety of left and right-hand waves, with the experience lasting between 15 and 20 seconds. At maximum capacity it can pump out two waves every eight seconds.



The ride combines the Astérix universe with Greek mythology

Jora Vision designs new rollercoaster for Parc Astérix

Dutch design company Jora Vision has worked alongside Compagnie des Alpes and German amusement manufacturers Gerstlauer to create a new Astérix attraction, which is due to open in June.

Combining elements of the Astérix universe with Greek myths and legends to create a unique rider experience, riders board the Pégase Express,

an ancient express train that takes them on a journey through the Ancient Greece themed area of the park.

Riders are sent down a 1000 m (3280 ft) track, going past the Romus and Rapidus attraction, before crashing through a billboard, entering the Temple of Medusa - waking and angering her - and ending with a backwards dive.



Ferrari Land recently opened its doors at PortAventura

Mousetrappe installs two attractions at Ferrari Land

Creative studio Mousetrappe has designed and produced two media-based attractions, Flying Dreams and Racing Legends, at PortAventura's Ferrari Land.

The attractions feature 12 different projected video environments, pepper's ghost illusions, and safety videos.

Mousetrappe also designed and produced three pre-shows and an immersive queue

featuring over 100-minutes of media and 40 minutes of music.

Flying Dreams - Around the World with Ferrari is a flying theatre experience that follows Ferrari's touring through different locations across Europe and the world.

Racing Legends is a simulator ride in an Omnimax-style dome that puts riders in the driving seat of Ferrari Formula One car.



Ulyanovsk is the largest waterpark in the Volga region of Russia

Thumbs up for Polin-supplied waterpark in Russia

Waterpark supplier Polin has had rave reviews for a new park in Russia since opening last year.

Named the Ulyanovsk Indoor Waterpark, the two-level aquatic centre is the largest in Russia's Volga region. It extends over 12,500 sq m (134,548 sq ft) and offers 'an exciting adventure' for its guests.

The park features three swimming pools, including a

wave pool, a sauna complex and several Polin waterslides, including Looping Rocket, one of Polin's most popular attractions.

Other waterslides at the park include: Space Hole, Sphere, Black Hole, Space Boat and Body Slide.

For younger riders Polin has also installed an interactive Pirate Ship and a pirate themed play centre.



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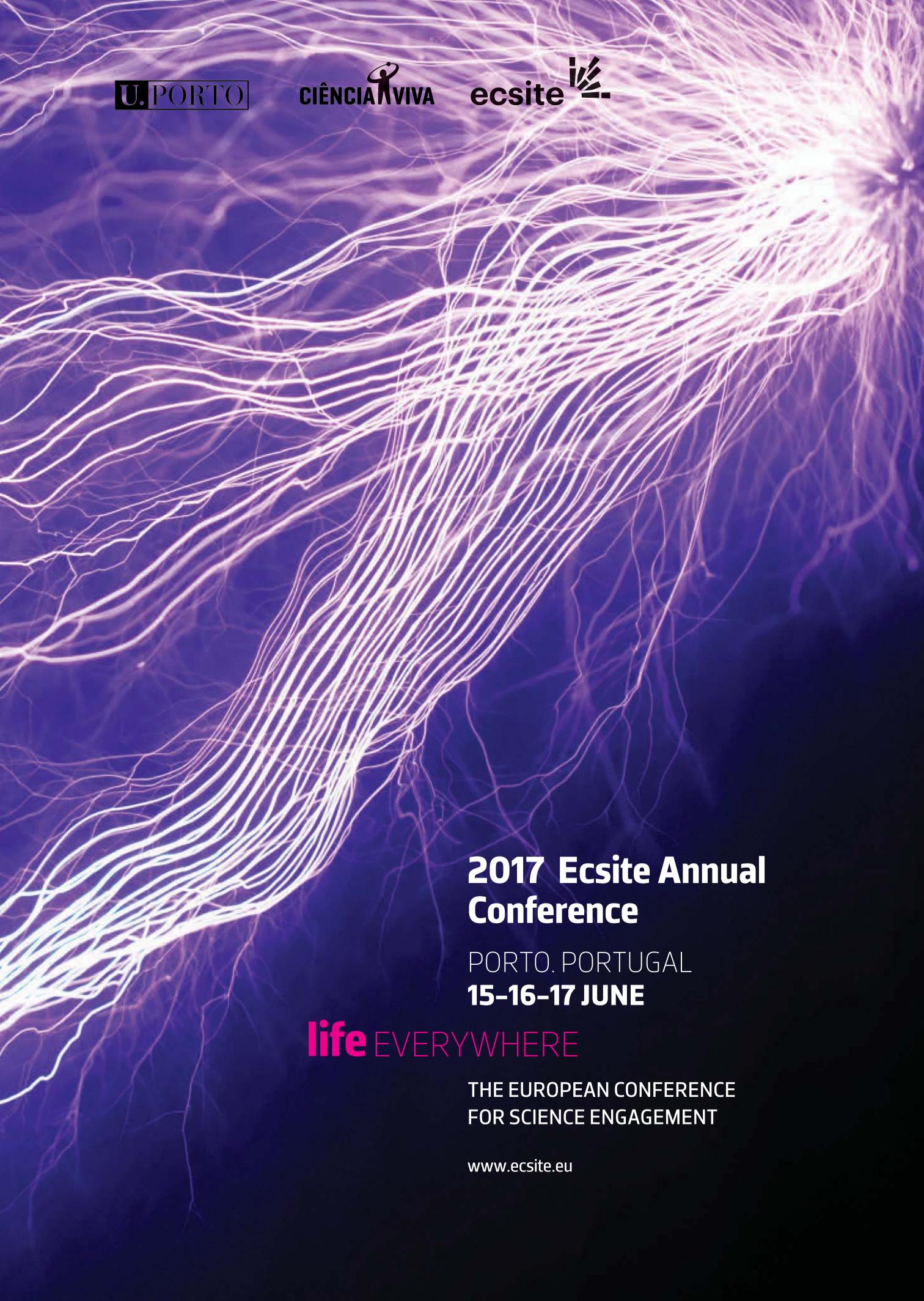
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EARNINGS REPORT

With Easter unusually falling outside of the first three months of 2017, operators' financial figures for first quarter earnings have been hit. *AM2* reports.

The Easter holidays have been a talking point for operators in the first three months of the year, with the late timing meaning the holiday falls outside of the traditional period. With great highs for some and disappointing losses for others, *AM2* looked at how the biggest operators fared for the start of 2017.

Disney's Shanghai magic

Disney's parks and resorts enjoyed another strong quarter, with the company experiencing double-digit growth in operating profits to US\$750m (€689.5m, £579.2m) in its Q2.

The boost represented a 20 per cent increase on last year's Q2 profits (US\$624m, £481.9m, €574.1m), and has been attributed to the opening of Shanghai Disney Resort, which opened in Q3 2016.

Overall, Disney's parks and resorts division recorded revenue for the quarter of US\$4.3bn (€3.95bn, £3.3bn) – a 9 per cent increase on the same period for 2016 when it earned US\$3.93bn (€3.6bn, £3bn).

"Our continued strong performance is a direct result of our proven strategic focus on great branded content, innovative technology and global growth," said Disney chair Bob Iger.



Disney is giving Bob Iger a reason to smile



SeaWorld saw a Q1 attendance decline of 14.9 per cent – approximately 491,000 visitors

SeaWorld sinking

The delayed Easter break has had a significant effect on SeaWorld, with a significant revenue decline of US\$33.8m (€31m, £26.1m) in the first quarter of 2017.

For the period, total revenues for the quarter were US\$186.4m (€170.8m, £144m), down 15 per cent compared to US\$220.2m (€201.8m, £170.1m) for the same period in 2016. The company generated a net loss of US\$61.1m (€56m, £47.2m) compared to a net loss of US\$84m (€77m, £65m) the year prior.

Attendance had a decline of 14.9 per cent – approximately 491,000 visitors. For the year-to-date, figures were essentially flat, accounting for the late Easter break.

A positive is the company's US\$40m (€36.6m, £30.9m) cost-cutting initiative, which is paying dividends, with operating expenses for the quarter decreasing by US\$23m (€21m, £17.8m) to US\$157.3m (€144.2m, £121.5m).

"We're well-positioned going into our second and third quarters"
- Joel Manby, SeaWorld

"Given the improving attendance trends we saw in April, and the robust lineup of attractions we're launching in the coming weeks, we're well-positioned going into our seasonally important second and third quarters," said SeaWorld president Joel Manby.

Trouble down under for Ardent

Continued struggles for Ardent Leisure have seen the company's chief executive step down from her position to take up a new role within the company overseeing its troubled theme park division.

Taking up the position of chief customer officer and chief operating officer for

“There is no doubt that Deborah was CEO during a very challenging period for the group” - Ardent

- ▶ Australasia, Deborah Thomas will directly oversee the revitalisation of Dreamworld and Ardent’s other Australian businesses – WhiteWater World and AMF bowling centres.

According to Ardent, combined visitor numbers at its parks for March and April were down 36.7 per cent, and revenue was 38.9 per cent lower at AU\$9.6m (US\$7m, €6.5m, £5.5m) for the period. In addition to continued fallout from the Dreamworld accident, which resulted in the death of four people on the park’s Thunder River rapids ride, the drop was partly reflected by heavy rainfall and Cyclone Debbie in March, which led to tourist cancellations in April.

Universal soaring

Universal’s theme parks continue to act as a growth driver for parent company Comcast, after the company recorded revenue increases of 9 per cent to US\$1.1bn (€1bn, £853m) in the first quarter of 2017.

For the quarter, Universal’s theme parks drew a profit of US\$397m (€364m, £307.8m) – a 6.1 per cent increase on last year’s figures.

Continued growth in the company’s theme park business – thanks to continued investment

and the 100 per cent purchase of Universal Studios Japan in late 2015 – gave strength to the rise, which is particularly impressive considering the spring break period.

Universal’s parks division was in fact so successful in 2016 that it contributed more profit to the company than its film and broadcast unit.

Shakey start for DXB

Dubai Parks and Resorts operator DXB Entertainments has said it will cut operating costs by 20 per cent in 2017 after posting losses of AED292m (US\$79.5m, €73.1m, £61.8m) in Q1.

Compared to a net loss of AED38m (US\$10.3m, €9.5m, £8m) when the parks weren’t operational in the same period last year, the result is a blow for DXB, which had forecast losses of AED110m (US\$29.9m, €27.5m, £23.3m) for the first quarter.

During the first quarter, the parks welcomed a total of 586,355 visitors, with around 40 per cent of traffic coming from outside the UAE.

“We expect our visitor numbers to stabilise by the fourth quarter of 2017, as we gain further traction with global tour and travel operators,” said DXB Entertainments CEO Raed Kajoor Al Nuaimi.

“A key strategic imperative for the business for the year is to reduce our operational cost base by 20 per cent compared to the initial projections. We’re well on track to meet this target by year end, having implemented a wide range of cost efficiency programmes.” ●



Thomas will oversee the revitalisation of Dreamworld and Ardent’s other Australian ventures



Around 40 per cent of Dubai Parks and Resorts’ visitors came from outside of the UAE

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Job location: New York NY , United States

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Life for Abu Dhabi's Guggenheim as contractors invited to renew tenders

The team behind the development of Guggenheim Abu Dhabi has asked contractors to renew their tender bids, indicating the long-delayed development could be about to splutter back into life after several years on the shelf.

Speaking to *Arabian Business*, a senior executive with one of the bidding companies said the Tourism Development and Investment Company (TDIC) had recently asked them to renew their bid bond.

"The commercial bid was submitted a long time ago," said the executive. "It was verified and discussed, but there was no outcome from the client. However, they



The Abu Dhabi project will be the largest Guggenheim

asked us to renew the bid bond three weeks ago and we have."

Once complete, Guggenheim Abu Dhabi will be the largest of the Guggenheim museums. The museum will include

13,000sq m (140,000sq ft) of gallery space, 18,000sq m (194,000sq ft) of exhibition space, a 350-seat theatre, a library, research centre and restaurants.

More: http://lei.sr?a=E8u2J_A

Miami's long-awaited Frost Museum finally opens doors to the public

The US\$305m (€278.2m, £235.1m) Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science is celebrating its grand opening today following a major expansion and redevelopment.

The hotly-anticipated museum – which sits in a prominent location on Miami's waterfront in the city's Museum Park – has navigated through difficult circumstances to reach this stage.

Pharmaceutical entrepreneurs Patricia and Phillip Frost had to step in last year to fill a US\$45m (€41m, £34.7m) funding shortfall, while its CEO, Gillian Thomas, announced her sudden retirement in July last year.



The Frost Museum is structured around a 'living core'

In April 2016, Miami-Dade County also approved a separate US\$45m bailout to cover swelling construction costs.

Speaking to *AM2* before her retirement, Thomas

said the development would be "the glue" for Miami's waterfront, adding that not all exhibits would be there on day one, but that they would be added over time.

More: http://lei.sr?a=S5J8F_A

American Association of Museums (AAM)

T: +1 202 289 1818 W: www.aam-us.org

Association of American Zoos & Aquariums

T: +1 301 562 0777 W: www.aza.org

Association of Art Museum Directors

T: +1 212 754 8084 W: www.aamd.org

Association of Independent Museums (AIM)

T: +44 (0)1584 878 151 W: www.aim-museums.co.uk

Association of Leading Visitor Attractions (ALVA)

T: +44 (0)20 7222 1728 W: www.alva.org.uk

Association of Science and Technology Centers (ASTC)

T: +1 202 783 7200 W: www.astc.org

Association of Scottish Visitor Attractions (ASVA)

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Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)

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Australian Amusement Leisure & Recreation Association (AALARA)

T: +61 7 3807 35 08 W: www.aalara.com.au

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T: +39 0522 554 176 W: www.eaasi.org

European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA)

T: +31 20 520 07 50 W: www.eaza.net

European Network of Science Centres and Museums (Ecsite)

T: +32 2 649 73 83 W: www.ecsite.eu

Giant Screen Cinema Association (GSCA)

T: +1 919 346 1123 W: www.giantscreencinema.com

Historic Houses Association (HHA)

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Indian Association of Amusement Parks & Industries (IAAPI)

T: +91 22 6523 1643 W: www.iaapi.org

International Association of Amusement Parks & Attractions (IAAPA)

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International Planetarium Society

T: +1 808 969 9735 W: www.ips-planetarium.org

Irish Science Centres Awareness Network (ISCAN)

T: +353 (0)51 302 865 W: www.iscan.ie

Museums Australia

T: +61 2 6230 0346 W: www.museumsaustralia.org.au

National Farm Attractions Network (NFAN)

T: +44 (0)1536 513 397 W: www.farmattractions.net

NAVET

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Outdoor Amusement Business Association (OABA)

T: +1 407 681 9444 W: www.oaba.org

The Aquarium & Zoo Facilities Association (AZFA)

E: rff@tnaqua.org W: www.azfa.org

The Canadian Museums Association

T: +1 613 567 0099 W: www.museums.ca

The Canadian Association of Science Centres (CASC)

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Themed Entertainment Association (TEA)

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T: +1 913 599 0300 W: www.waterparks.org

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