

# Attractions

## MANAGEMENT NEWS

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## K-Pop theme park at heart of US\$4bn plan

A huge new development in Korea is set to go ahead after stalling twice since 2007, with the expansive attraction boasting a combined K-pop and natural history theme park as its centrepiece.

The Hwaseong International Theme Park in Hwaseong, Gyeonggi Province, will be built by Shinsegae Property Consortium and will also feature a hotel, shopping centre and a golf course.

Ground will be broken on the US\$4bn project in 2021. The theme park is set to open in 2026, with the masterplan to be completed by 2031.

K-pop and natural regional features such as the Shihwa Lake and a dinosaur fossil site will be central to the destination's theme.

"We're aiming to build Asia's best global tourist destination, a space that will contribute to the growth of Korea and the region," said Shinsegae Property CEO Lim Yeong-rok.



■ The K-Pop theme park will anchor the 1.21 sq mi site

60,000 people will be employed through its construction and a further 15,000 jobs will be created at the theme park, said the Shinsegae Property Consortium.

MORE: [http://lei.sr/E7S4K\\_T](http://lei.sr/E7S4K_T)

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**We're aiming to build Asia's best global tourist destination, a space that will contribute to the growth of Korea and the region**

Lim Yeong-rok



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Visitors can see the palace for the first time ever

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## Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge will open earlier than expected, says Disney CEO **Bob Iger**

**S**tar Wars: Galaxy's Edge will open at Disneyland in California on 31 May 2019 and then at Walt Disney World in Florida on 29 August 2019, according to Disney CEO Bob Iger.

Iger announced the official opening dates for the theme park area at both parks in Disney shareholder meeting to the surprise of some observers, many of whom had anticipated a later opening date.

The opening at both parks will only see one of the two major attractions in the area open, however, the Millennium Falcon: Smuggler's Run.

The Star Wars: Rise of the Resistance ride will open later in the year at both Disneyland and



■ Iger made the announcement during a shareholder meeting

**"We have made the decision to open the land in phases to allow guests to sooner enjoy our one-of-a-kind experiences"**

at Walt Disney World, with no date announced as yet. Disney has suggested that the decision

to have a phased opening stemmed from overwhelming customer demand.

"In light of tremendous demand, we have made the decision to open the land in phases to allow guests to sooner enjoy the one-of-a-kind experiences that make Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge so spectacular," said Iger, reading a Disney statement.

Disneyland will require visitors to make a free reservation to get into the land and on the ride. This reservation will require visitors having a valid admission for dates between 31 May and 23 June – a period that may be extended.

Information on how to make a reservation will be available at a later date on Disneyland.com and the Disney Parks Blog.

## Former Guggenheim director **Thomas Krens** has ambitious multi-museum plans for Massachusetts city



■ Thomas Krens is planning a number of museum projects

**T**homas Krens, the former director of New York's Guggenheim Museum, has detailed his ambitious plans for North Adams, Massachusetts, which centre around a railway museum.

Krens' plans include several museums forming a cultural hub in the city, centred around the Extreme Model Railroad and Contemporary Architecture Museum (EMRCA), a 90,000sq ft (8,361sq m) facility with 9.5 miles of model train track laid through a scale-model cityscape.

**"It's what we saw by tweaking the institution, not sacrificing the aesthetics and expanding the concepts"**

Krens announced the plans at a lecture he gave last month at the Clark Art Institute in nearby Williamstown, where he also said he feels museums need to be more like theme parks if they are to thrive in the modern day, with experiential exhibitions and more of a focus on entertainment would necessary at museums going forward.

In his talk, he noted Guggenheim exhibitions that took place during his tenure as director, namely 1998's The Art of the Motorcycle and a 2000 Armani clothing show.

"These were audience generators," he said. "It's what we saw by tweaking the institution, not sacrificing the aesthetics and expanding the concepts to address a wider audience."



■ Lennard Otto has been CEO of IMG since December 2015

**"IMG is in advanced talks with banks on our syndicate-loan restructuring to support the business"**

## IMG CEO **Lennard Otto** denies theme park sale rumours

IMG Worlds of Adventure CEO Lennard Otto has said there are no plans to sell the record-breaking indoor theme park, following rumours of a takeover published by the media.

According to *Bloomberg*, IMG – which owns Worlds of Adventure – is "exploring options for the business, including a possible sale".

IMG is currently working on a plan to restructure an AED1.2bn (US\$327m, €289m, £247m) loan used to part-finance the AED3.7bn (US\$1bn, €883m, £755m) attraction. Otto said the talks were at an advanced stage.

"We are not planning to sell IMG in any form, neither partial and wholly. IMG is in advanced talks with banks on our syndicate-loan restructuring to support the business," said his statement.

A number of theme parks have come to the UAE in recent years as part of the country's efforts to reduce its dependence on oil and improve its tourism standing.

Although a target of 20 million visitors by 2020 was set for the country, low oil prices and lower visitor figures than expected has hampered a number of tourism projects, delaying new openings.

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## Abu Dhabi's Presidential Palace opens to public for first time in its history



■ The palace will be open to the public on a daily basis

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) Presidential Palace in Abu Dhabi is open to the public for the first time in its history, with interactive cultural exhibitions and a full tour of its vast library.

The move was spurred by President Sheikh Khalifa in a bid to boost the wider cultural understanding of the UAE, with a building in the palace compound, called Qasr Al Watan opening for visitor tours.

Open daily from 10am-8pm local time, visitors will be

**"This new cultural landmark reflects our heritage and identity, opening its doors to our people"**

able to see and browse a huge collection of books and resources about the UAE's political, social and cultural history.

In the west wing, guests can learn about how the country formed and its governance, and gain access to halls typically reserved for official summits.

Meanwhile, the House of Knowledge in the east

wing will display a collection of artefacts and rare manuscripts that highlight the Arab world's contributions to various intellectual fields including science, the arts, humanities and literature.

"This new cultural landmark reflects our heritage and identity, opening its doors to our people, residents and visitors," said Sheikh Mohammed.

## First-of-its-kind leisure airport set to debut this spring in Singapore

Jewel Changi Airport – long-praised as representing a new paradigm in passenger experience design – is scheduled to open its doors this spring in Singapore.

Planned by Safdie Architects and delivered by BuroHappold Engineering, the first-of-its-kind transit hub will double as an attraction and boast several publicly accessible and "community-centric" leisure facilities and hospitality outlets, including boutique hotels and restaurants, a 40-metre-high indoor waterfall, and a five-storey "paradise garden".

Shaped like a bulbous torus, the 134,000 sq m destination will also play host



■ The dome will become one of the world's largest gridshells

**"Jewel dramatically asserts the idea of the airport as an uplifting and vibrant urban centre"**

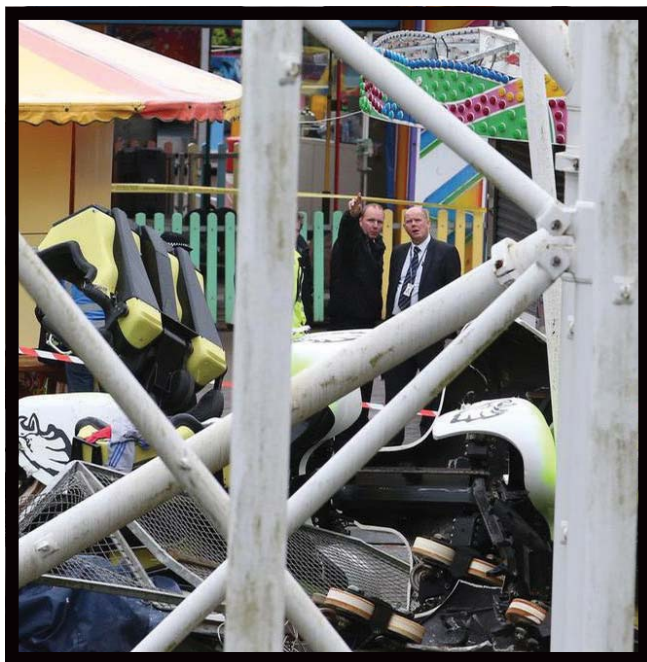
to nature trails, a swimming pool, a cinema, and an expansive retail emporium.

The waterfall, which will also function as a rain collection system, will descend from the

main architectural innovation of the complex: a 200-metre-wide glass and steel roof constructed by BuroHappold.

According to the firm, the dome will make Jewel Changi one of the "world's largest gridshells, with approximately 6,000 nodes connecting the beams and glass panels".

Speaking on the soon-to-be-completed project, Moshe Safdie, principal and founder at Safdie Architects, said: "Jewel weaves together an experience of nature and the marketplace, dramatically asserting the idea of the airport as an uplifting and vibrant urban centre, engaging travellers, visitors, and residents, and echoing Singapore's reputation as 'The City in the Garden.'"



■ Five carriages on the ride came off their tracks

**"This was a serious incident that resulted in members of the public being badly injured while they were supposed to be enjoying themselves"**

## M&D Leisure fined over coaster derailment

**M**&D Leisure – the owner of M&D's theme park in Motherwell, Scotland – has been fined over an incident that saw one of its roller coasters derailed, injuring 11 people.

The incident, which occurred in June 2016, caused nine children and two adults to be hospitalised and happened on the park's Tsunami ride.

Five carriages on the Pinfari-manufactured ride came off their tracks, plunging roughly 20ft (6m) to the ground and hitting the top of a child's car ride, before coming to a rest upside down, leaving riders trapped.

UK safety body the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) led an investigation into the matter and found the coaster was not maintained properly, nor was it in efficient working order and that weld repairs carried out on its axels were inadequate and unsound.

"This was a serious incident that resulted in members of the public being badly injured while they were supposed to be enjoying themselves," said HSE inspector Martin McMahon.

"Poor maintenance procedures led directly to the catastrophic failure on 26 June 2016."

## MEET THE TEAM

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## THEME PARKS

# New ride regulations introduced after deaths

The government of Queensland, Australia, has announced a number of new regulations for any visitor attractions operating rollercoasters or rides, following a tragedy at Dreamworld in 2016 that took the lives of four people.

All rides open at anything from theme parks to carnivals to county fairs in Queensland will be subject to pull-apart inspections every decade under the new regulations, while ride operators will have to undergo more stringent training perform their duties.

Workplace health and safety inspectors will carry out the checks, which could potentially see rides and attractions closed for weeks at a time.

Rides will now also have to have detailed logbooks that display records of annual inspections and any maintenance issues.

The regulations will come into effect as of 1 May 2019 and will be phased in over a two-year period.

"We think there's no need to wait and we can get this started and make this industry safe," said industrial relations minister for Queensland Grace Grace.

"We're hoping that these new regulations will go a long way to improving the safety of these rides."

The incident at Dreamworld took place in October 2016 on the Thunder River Rapids ride.

MORE: [http://lei.sr/N6a9N\\_T](http://lei.sr/N6a9N_T)



■ The incident at Dreamworld took place in October 2016



“

**We think there's no need to wait and we can get this started and make this industry safe**

Grace Grace

## PLANETARIUMS

# Work completed on Orange Coast College Planetarium



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**This campus is going to take off in the next three years**

Kevin Ballinger

The new planetarium at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, California, is now finished and will open on 23 March.

The US\$23m (€20.3m, £17.3m) project broke ground in 2016 on the site of the previous planetarium at the college and is part of a larger seven-year US\$965m (€854m, £727m) renovation to OCC's district campuses called Vision 2020.

Stretching across an area of 11,000sq ft (1,022sq m), the planetarium has 125 seats in total and will put on a range of shows

Funding came from a college district finance initiative and the OCC



■ The planetarium will put on a range of shows

Foundation, as well as US\$3m (€2.7m, £2.3m) in community donations.

"We're so grateful to the community for supporting Measure M," said OCC interim president Kevin Ballinger. "I think they're really going to see this campus in the next three years just take off."

MORE: [http://lei.sr/k8N7H\\_T](http://lei.sr/k8N7H_T)





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# Why a good parking experience adds to the attraction

**Parking. When it goes right it's a seamless, virtually undetectable experience.**

**When it goes wrong, it can ruin an entire day. In some cases, customers can be won or lost on the strength of the parking**

**T**he number of cars on our roads rises every year and as a result, the case for managing parking gets ever stronger. In tourism – where 65 per cent of day trips are taken by car – ensuring that visitors can easily find and access parking can make a huge difference to their experience.

Parking for tourists is different to the usual parking offering. Tourists will be unfamiliar with the destination and wanting to stay longer than the two-hour average. For a parking provider, there's the question of parking capacity, and supply and demand fluctuating through the year.

How visitors get their information is

varied, but in most cases the internet plays the biggest part. It's where the detail can be provided but simply presented. On arrival at the destination, signage is really important and supplying good information here is vital. If the actual attraction is some way off, the visitor will require further information in order to get there.

The cost of parking is always a very sensitive issue. Many attractions are able to offer free parking, but where parking isn't provided charges may be incurred. Tourists are medium and long stay users so ideally, the fees will need to reflect this. In central areas, however, long stay parking can, and will, attract commuters who take up vital

spaces for tourists, which creates an issue. Medium to long stay parking is discouraged for commuters but encouraged for tourists. As this is the first cost the tourist encounters at their destination, it leaves a very big impression.

Location of the parking facility should not be an after-thought. Regarding visual intrusion, the issue here is how tourist parking fits into the overall scheme of the site and the general local amenity. This is not simply a question of visual aesthetics such as adequate landscaping. It also includes issues of park and walk, park and ride and park and shuttle, taking full account of the amenity and safety of the area.





Above: The BPA will be available to discuss your needs at Parkex 2019  
Left: Addenbrookes carpark, Cambridge  
Right: Maintaining your car park



SHUTTERSTOCK/BJ SYDA PRODUCTIONS

In essence, parking provision requires commitment and an understanding that it's an important issue, which has not always been the case; such as instances where the tourists are coming to see a temporary or seasonal event, for example. Frequently parking provision has simply been the nearest field. In these cases, consideration for the wider population whose environment may be disrupted should be given.

Communicating the location of the parking is an integral part of seamless journeys and accessibility. Information can be included on sat navs as well as on road signs. The central aim must be to indicate to the tourist which car parks are meant for them and of course where the attraction is.

Motorists will increasingly be seeking safer parking facilities, which is especially important at tourist sites where vehicles may be left unattended for relatively long periods of time, sometimes in remote locations. The police owned Safer Parking Scheme is a benchmark standard for parking provision. A specially trained police assessor will make an assessment against four criteria known to reduce vehicle-related crime and the fear of crime in parking facilities. These are lighting, surveillance, cleanliness and good management. If the parking facility passes it is given a Park Mark award. With 65 per

## “ MOTORISTS WILL INCREASINGLY BE SEEKING SAFER PARKING FACILITIES, WHICH IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT AT TOURIST SITES

cent of motorists saying they would choose a Park Mark-awarded car park over one that has not been assessed, this scheme is definitely one to consider.

Disabled parking provision is also much overlooked. The biggest barrier for disabled motorists is the abuse of disabled parking bays. However, with the right management, this can be overcome. The Disabled Parking Accreditation is one way of being able to demonstrate the quality of disabled parking on offer and that these spaces are managed specifically for disabled motorists.

The benefits of these awards are an increase in trust between the motorist and the parking provider, leading to high ratings for the parking facility and repeat custom.

Getting the parking right is good for the parking provider and a clear asset for any destination. It can be a value factor which distinguishes one site from another. Making proper provision means obvious increases in extra revenue, attracting high spending visitors and getting maximum usage from car parks which may otherwise be underused.

From 2–4 April, The British Parking Association is hosting Parkex, Europe's largest dedicated parking exhibition at the NEC, in Birmingham, UK. Why not come along and discuss how awards and accreditations can benefit your business, experience new innovations in parking technology and immerse yourself in all things parking.

**The event is free of charge. Register your interest at [www.parkex.co.uk](http://www.parkex.co.uk) ●**

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## HOTELS

# PortAventura to open carbon-neutral hotel

PortAventura has announced the opening of its first carbon-neutral hotel on 1 June, with the popular Spanish destination affirming its commitment to reducing its environmental footprint.

Called Hotel Colorado Creek, the new addition will be the theme park and resort's sixth hotel. Offering 150 bedrooms, the hotel is inspired by the Far West gold rush and will offer 4-star accommodation, with direct access to PortAventura Park. The opening will bring the resort's total number of rooms up to more than 2,200.

"Colorado Creek will be PortAventura's first carbon-neutral hotel and in time,

the park will aim to extend this commitment to other areas of the resort," said Fernando Aldecoa, general director of PortAventura.

"PortAventura is continuing to consolidate its commitment to the environment with a responsible and sustainable management model, a cornerstone of the company's ESG (environmental, social and governance) policy."

The development is the latest in a number of eco-friendly initiatives taken by the operator, including a pledge to be plastic free by 2020 and to source all of its electricity from zero carbon renewable energy sources.

MORE: [http://lei.sr/Z5b5Q\\_T](http://lei.sr/Z5b5Q_T)



■ The addition will be the theme park and resort's sixth hotel



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**In time, the park will aim to extend this commitment to other areas of the resort**

Fernando Aldecoa

## SCIENCE CENTRES

# Science Museum Group opens Manchester training academy



“

**Helping find relevance in science is at the heart of our mission**

Susan Raikes

The Science Museum Group has opened a new training and education facility as part of its Science Museum Group Academy arm at Manchester's Science and Industry Museum.

The new hub is the company's first in the north of England, with the original being operative at the Science Museum in London, and will provide training for teachers to help them boost science engagement and learning outside of the classroom.

At the Academy, teachers will learn techniques and use resources designed to help them engage students in STEM.



■ The academy is based in Manchester, England

"Helping more people find meaning and relevance in science is at the heart of the Science Museum Group's mission to inspire futures," said Susan Raikes, director of learning at the Science Museum Group.

MORE: [http://lei.sr/c3Q5n\\_T](http://lei.sr/c3Q5n_T)





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## MUSEUMS

# Renovation for Bay Area Discovery Museum

The Bay Area Discovery Museum (BADM) in Sausalito, California, has announced that it is to undergo a renovation designed by architecture firm Olson Kundig, led by architect Alan Maskin.

The museum, which is an art and STEM centre for children aged up to 10-years-old, announced the US\$18.5m (€16.4m, £14m) renovation under the moniker 'BOLD: Spark Curiosity, Inspire Innovation' – a directive that will include five new research-based exhibits, a new dedicated classroom space for school field trips and improved on-site amenities.

BADM estimates that the improvements will help it to welcome 400,000

visitors annually, including 17,500 school children on field trips and more than 100,000 visitors with free or reduced admission.

"Our architect Alan Maskin and his team – in collaboration with our in-house research division – have designed new exhibits that develop key creative problem-solving skills, spark children's curiosity, and, ultimately, are really fun for families to enjoy together," said Karyn Flynn, CEO of BADM.

Maskin added: "I was excited about the opportunity to renovate the Bay Area Discovery Museum and align Olson Kundig's design with their education theories and practices."

**MORE:** [http://lei.sr/m4x7z\\_T](http://lei.sr/m4x7z_T)



■ Exhibit upgrades will take place over the next two years



“

**I was excited about the opportunity to renovate the Bay Area Discovery Museum**

Alan Maskin

## ZOOS

# Work starts on Columbus Zoo's sea lion and seal habitat



“

**Sea lions and seals are going to swim right over you**

Tom Stalf

Construction has begun on a new sea lion and seal habitat at Columbus Zoo in Ohio, US, which will include an underwater viewing tunnel allowing visitors to walk next to the creatures as they swim around them.

The new area, called Adventure Cove, is expected to open to the public in Q2 2020 and will be open year-round.

The US\$40m (€35.3m, £30.3m) project will cover 7 acres of land.

"One of the things that's going to be super special, and it's never been done anywhere, is that there's going to be an acrylic glass tube where



■ Adventure Cove will open to the public in Q2 2020

you can walk through and have a 360-degree experience," said Columbus Zoo president and CEO Tom Stalf.

"So you're going to be standing there and sea lions and seals are going to swim right over you, right under you. It's going to be awesome."

**MORE:** [http://lei.sr?a=n9j9K\\_O](http://lei.sr?a=n9j9K_O)

**WATERPARK**

# Giant waterpark proposed for Melbourne

A new AU\$100m (US\$70.87m, €62.6m, £53.39m) indoor waterpark in Melbourne, Australia, will be the largest such park in the southern hemisphere upon completion, according to the partners behind the project.

Zagame's Wild Water Park will be situated in the city's south-eastern suburb of Dingley Village. Comprising 18,200sq m (59,700sq ft) of indoor and 20,000sq m (65,616sq ft) of outdoor water attractions, the resort is a venture between hospitality group Zagame, property group Pellicano (which owns the land), supplier WhiteWater West, and local architectural practice Peddle Thorp. An application to

build the park was submitted in early March 2019.

According *The Herald Sun*, the waterpark will take two years to construct, once approved. It will create more than 1,100 full-time jobs in the region, with 600 at the park itself. Among the rides planned for Zagame's Wild Water Park are a 180-degree semi-circular stand-up surf pool, a tunnel-like wave ski-slide with video controls, and an indoor-outdoor lazy river.

"It will set a new bar for waterparks in Australia and the southern hemisphere," said James Corbett of WhiteWater West. "There will be lots of firsts, but we don't want to give away too much."

**MORE:** [http://lei.sr/3Z9u2\\_T](http://lei.sr/3Z9u2_T)



■ The waterpark will take two years to build



**It will set a new bar for waterparks in Australia and the southern hemisphere**

James Corbett

**VISITOR ATTRACTIONS**

# MVRDV share details of green-roofed emporium in Taiwan



**Tainan Market symbolises the beauty of Tainan**

Winy Maas

Dutch design firm MVRDV have revealed renderings of their plan to create an open-air marketplace and urban escape in Tainan, Taiwan.

The new attraction, which recently broke ground, will be divided into two areas: a ground-floor trading area – set to host vending stalls and kiosks – and a rooftop park.

Landscaped to resemble terraced paddy fields, the green expanse will function as a recreational retreat.

"Tainan Market can become a building that symbolises the beauty of Tainan's agriculture fields, farms,



■ Tainan Market is a new urban landscape in Taiwan

sea, and mountains," said Winy Maas, principal at MVRDV.

"Its terraced roof with its collection of growing products will allow visitors to take in the landscape while escaping from bustle below."

**MORE:** [http://lei.sr/f4C7a\\_T](http://lei.sr/f4C7a_T)

# Peppa Power

Peppa Pig theme park potentially in the works  
as Varney discusses Merlin IP merits



Merlin is looking at the possibility of creating a Peppa Pig theme park

**M**erlin chief Nick Varney has revealed potential plans for a theme park development dedicated entirely to Peppa Pig.

Speaking during a recent trading update conference call, the Merlin CEO discussed the power of IP at the company's portfolio of theme parks and resorts.

"Disney and Universal clearly have their own mega theme parks and their own IPs and we can all see what they are doing," said Varney.

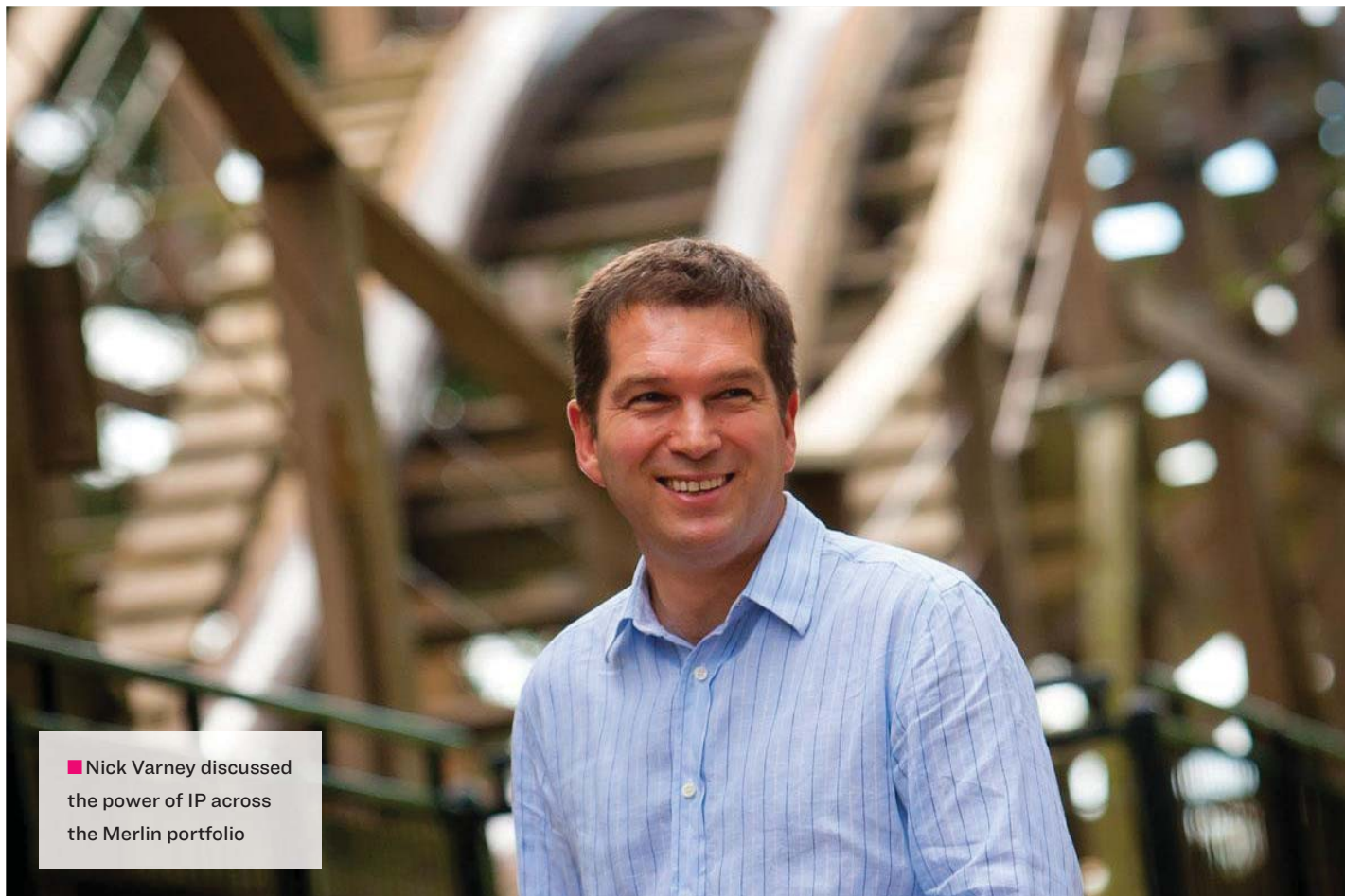
"But there are an awful lot of brands and IP owners who don't and Merlin, I think, is perfectly placed to become the partner of choice for those companies – and it already is, as evidenced by some of their relationships we're already exploiting.

"Merlin has a track record with its own brands, like Madame Tussauds and Sea Life but it has, obviously, a very strong track record in the partner of our IPs that we have worked with, most notably Lego through the Legoland brand.

"But there are also partnerships you've seen us exploit with BBC and CBeebies' land at Alton Towers and more recently, eOne's Peppa Pig, which is manifesting itself both in lands and existing theme parks in the Merlin estate, a new Midway brand, Peppa Pig World of Play and, potentially in the future, a bespoke Peppa Pig theme park."

Peppa Pig is manifesting itself both in lands and existing theme park, a new Midway brand, and, potentially a bespoke Peppa Pig theme park





■ Nick Varney discussed the power of IP across the Merlin portfolio

“ The multi-format approach that Merlin has, again, makes us a very attractive partner for a lot of IP owners ”

Varney went on to say that the group can offer IP owners any number of options, be it lands at existing parks or, indeed, dedicated parks.

"Merlin's track record is a great recommendation – both in the fact that we are truly global, operating across four continents, and the fact that, unlike any other operator in our market, we are multi-format," he said.

"We can offer people theme parks. We can offer them theme park-branded accommodation. We can offer them Midway. And in the future, Merlin magic-making is doing a lot of work at looking at other formats that we might grow into, things for example like pop-ups, escape rooms, all things that we're actually looking at experimenting with.

"So I think that the multi-format approach that Merlin has, again, makes us a very attractive partner for a lot of IP owners."



■ Successful Merlin partnerships include CBeebies Land at Alton Towers



## Changing tides

Ennead Architects to help conserve rare species  
with a futuristic lab centre and aquarium



■ Thomas Wong, design partner at Ennead

International design practice Ennead Architects have won a competition to build a futuristic laboratory and nature reserve on the Yangtze River near Shanghai, China.

The new 427,000 sq ft (39,669 sq m) facility, which will resemble rippling waves and feature indoor and outdoor habitats, will primarily function as a breeding and research centre, housing endangered populations of finless porpoises – the Yangtze's only extant aquatic mammal – and

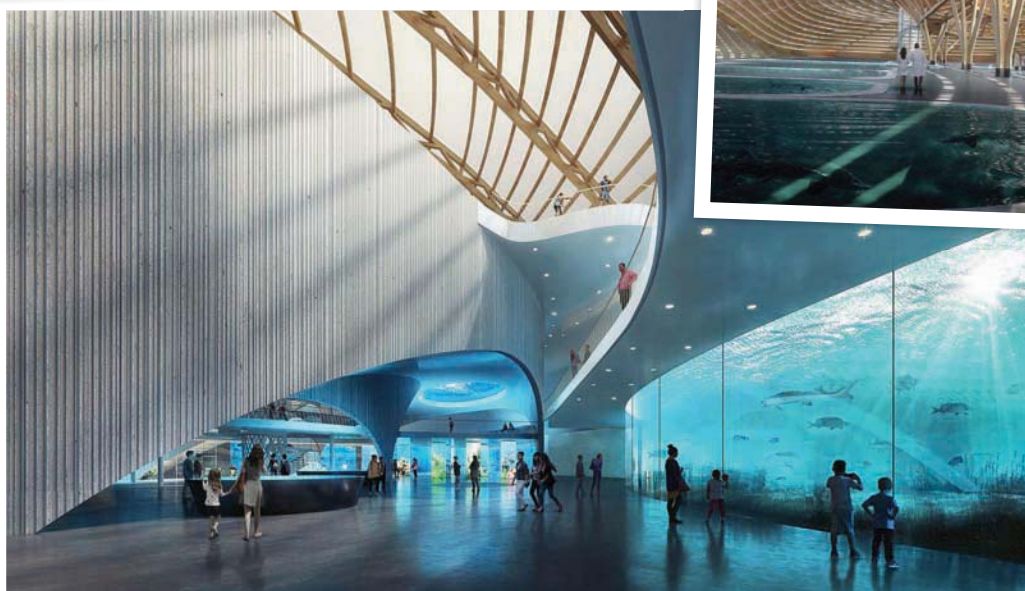
sturgeon, one of the oldest species of fish in the world. The site will also double as an attraction and host an aquarium in order to stimulate local interest in ecological conservation.

Public-facing areas will comprise walkways, exhibition galleries, and an auditorium.

### Important Work

"The project makes the important work of the institution visible to visitors through an immersive aquarium and exhibit





Public-facing areas will comprise walkways, exhibition galleries, and an auditorium

experience, bringing them into direct contact with its activities," said Ennead in a statement from their website.

"Visitors," they added, "will be able to immerse themselves in a completely natural setting away from the dense urban core of Shanghai."

According to the architects, the centre's landscape design – which will be carried out by Andropogon Associates – will reconstruct "the shoreline system and the variety of eco-regions throughout the Yangtze River



The project makes the important work of the institution visible to visitors through an immersive aquarium and exhibit

basin, establishing the critical balance between land and aquatic habitats".

### Protecting Yangtze River

Thomas Wong, design partner at Ennead, commented: "Through this design, the whole of society will be called upon to jointly protect the Yangtze River's ecological environment and provide a sustainable living space for all kinds of organisms, including human beings."

Work on the project is expected to be completed in 2021.





We're not just going to do astronomy shows. There will be things like fighter pilots and humpback whales on offer as well

Judy Cara, project manager, Air Force Academy Planetarium



# Shooting for the stars

Colorado Air Force Academy's planetarium reopens with Steve Spangler show



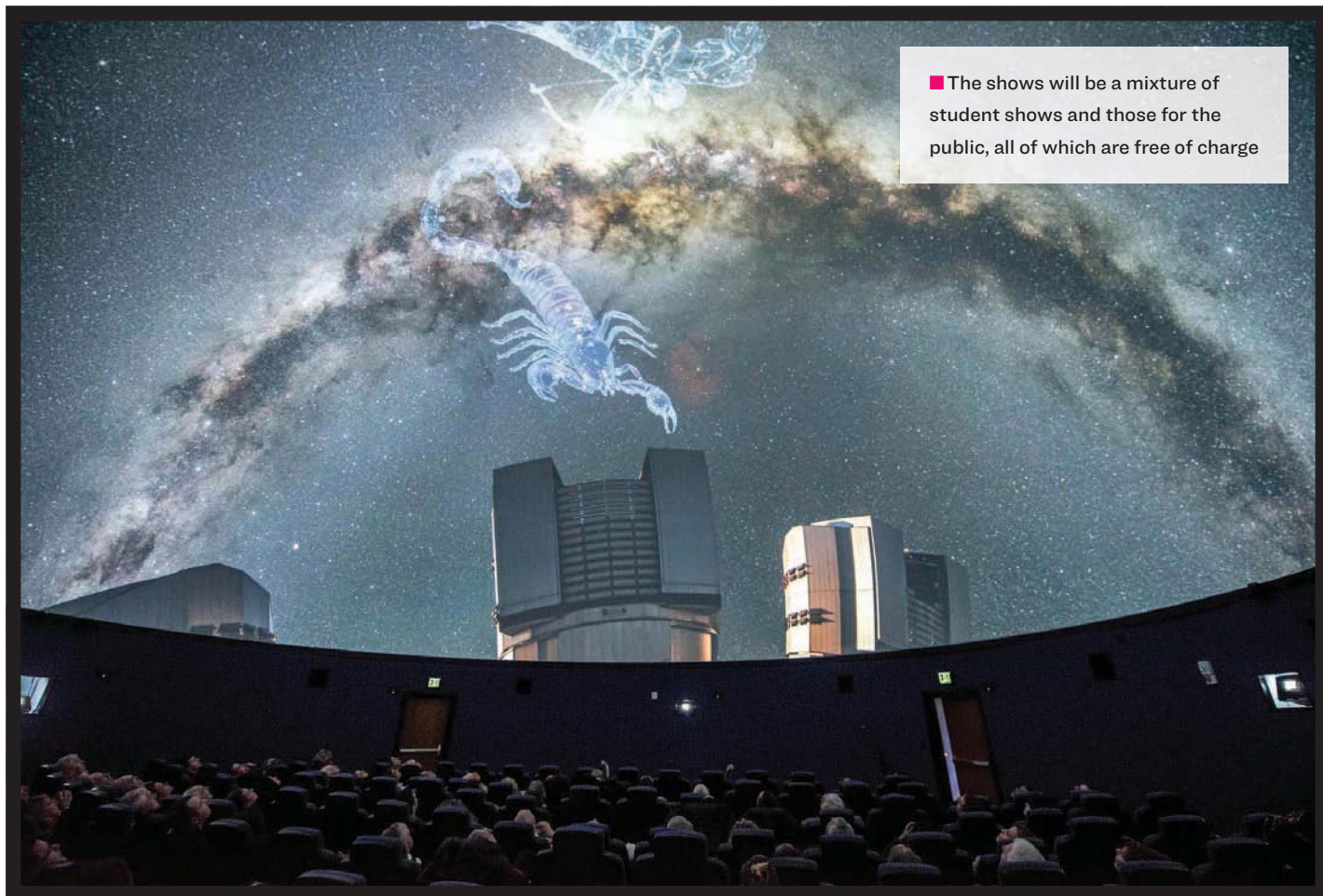
■ The planetarium was originally closed back in 2004 and reopened at the start of March this year

**T**he US Air Force Academy in Colorado reopened the base's planetarium for the first time in 15 years, with a pre-opening show on earlier this month from popular scientist Steve Spangler.

Spangler, who famously first went viral with a video showing how Mentos and Diet Coke create an eruption in the bottle, presented a family friendly show with sparks of electricity, exploding bubbles and giant rings of smoke for visitors.

The planetarium fully opened on 4 March and will now have a daily run of shows combining projection technology and immersive surround sound to create a unique experience for visitors at the military training base.

The shows will be a mixture of student shows and those for the public, all of which are free of charge. Topics covered at shows will include



■ The shows will be a mixture of student shows and those for the public, all of which are free of charge



## The planetarium at the Air Force Academy is reopening having been closed for 15 years



black holes, the Aurora, eclipses and moon phases, future human space exploration – in collaboration with NASA – and fighter pilots.

There are 110 seats in total with additional space for disabled access in the planetarium, which was originally closed back in 2004.

"The planetarium at the Air Force Academy is reopening having been closed for 15 years," said Judy Cara, project manager at the planetarium.

"It was closed in 2004 because we used to teach celestial navigation to the cadets at the Academy and things have changed, technology has changed and there was no longer a need to teach them celestial navigation.

"Now we're reopening, We're not just going to do astronomy shows. There will be things like fighter pilots and humpback whales on offer as well."



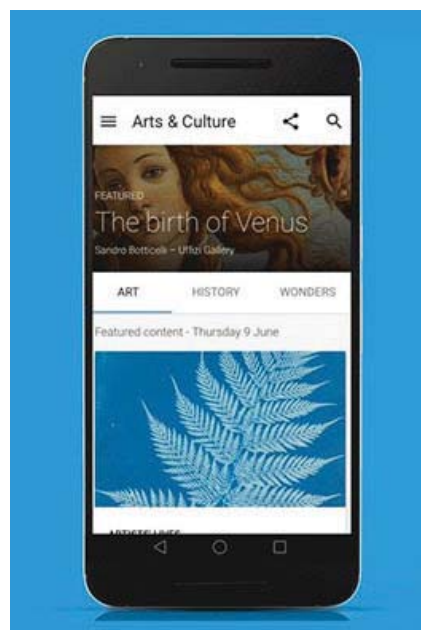
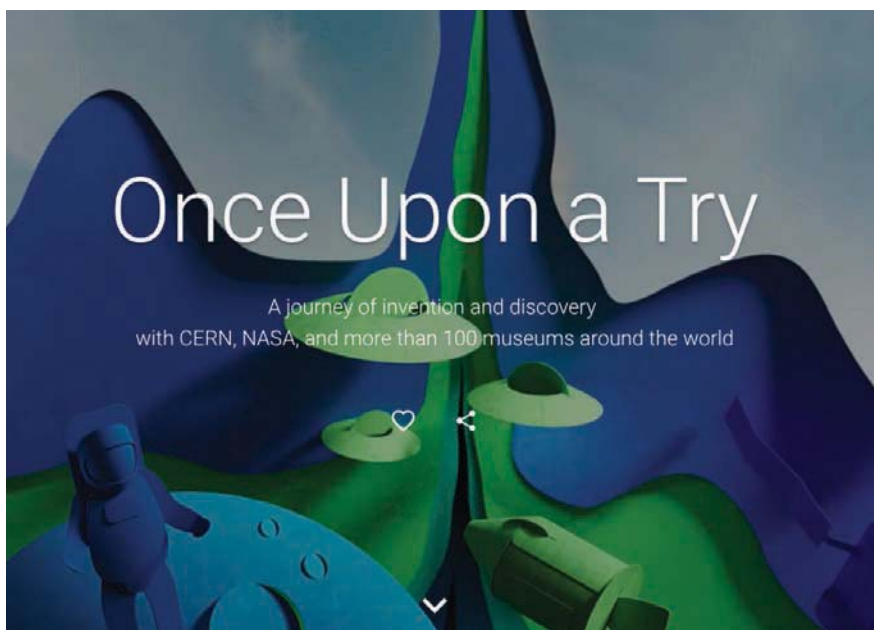
■ There are 110 seats in total with additional space for disabled access in the planetarium



# PRODUCT INNOVATION

Suppliers tell Attractions Management News about their latest product, design and technology launches

For the latest supplier news and company information, visit **[attractions-kit.net](http://attractions-kit.net)**



● Once upon a Try is an ambitious digital project built in collaboration with teams from institutions including NASA, CERN and Smithsonian

## Google launches extensive online science and human discovery museum platform



● Tilda Swinton narrates a Big Bang augmented reality app

Google Arts and Culture has launched a massive online science museum platform with a number of museums, curators and archivists in 23 countries around the world.

Featuring more than 200,000 artefacts, Once upon a Try is an ambitious digital project built in collaboration with teams from institutions including NASA, the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN) and the Smithsonian Institute.

Over 100 museums are involved, with other collaborators including London's Science Museum Group, France's Académie des Sciences and

Network of European Museum Organisations' (NEMO) Science Museum in Amsterdam.

The project aims to tell the story of scientific discovery via images, videos, and other content and is available online and on the Google Arts and Culture app on Android and iOS. Each exhibition is a celebration of some kind of invention or discovery in science.

NASA's Virtual Universe exhibition allows users to browse through a vast catalogue of hundreds of thousands of photos. Users can enter search terms to pinpoint specific things they may want to discover or organise the

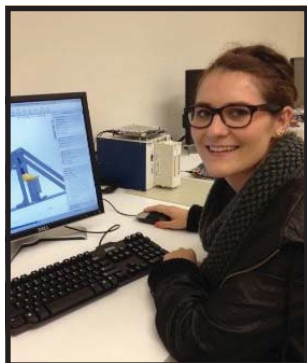
library by category to find things. CERN's exhibition, meanwhile, is called The Big Bang in AR and is an augmented reality experience that is narrated by actress Tilda Swinton, telling the story of the beginning of the Universe.

There are a number of other wide-ranging exhibitions to explore, including those on people who invented things such as paper or the toothbrush, a documentary on artist Cai Guo-Qiang using gunpowder to create paintings and an exhibition on the wheel.

ATTRACTIONS-KIT KEYWORD  
**GOOGLE**



## Disney shows off next-generation audio-animatronics



● Walt Disney Imagineering show mechanical engineer Kathryn Yancey

Walt Disney Imagineering has revealed its A1000 advanced robotics, developed for the operators upcoming Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge attraction at Walt Disney World in Florida.

Along with the video footage, Walt Disney Imagineering provided the following commentary: "A1000 advanced robotics is the next evolution of the A100 Audio-Animatronic figures that were first introduced by Walt Disney Imagineering in the mid-1980s. This standardised system for building humanoid



● A1000 advanced robotics is the next evolution

robotic figures incorporates new electric functionality, replacing former hydraulic functions, producing extremely realistic, lifelike movement. Future figures in humanoid form can all use this system to ensure the same degree of realism and advanced levels of movement.

"The advanced figures that were developed for Star

Wars: Galaxy's Edge - like this animated figure of Hondo Ohnaka, as seen in the *Star Wars* animated television series - are a hybrid of A1000 technology enhanced with custom-built elements," said mechanical engineer Kathryn Yancey.

.....  
**ATTRACTIONS-KIT KEYWORD**  
**IMAGINEERING**  
.....

### APPOINTMENTS

## Sylvain Larose named new COO at Triotech

Sylvain Larose has been named as Triotech's new chief operating officer (COO).

In his new role Larose, who has worked at the company for the past 15 years, will be

responsible for supervising all of the company's operations, both at the head office in Montreal and across the globe.

Larose has held multiple roles with Triotech, including chief financial officer (CFO)



● Larose has worked at Triotech for 15 years

and general manager. He has extensive experience within the industry, giving him a thorough understanding of strategic, financial and operational issues.

Ernest Yale, founder and president of Triotech, said: "Sylvain has the skills, and an in-depth knowledge of the market and so will play a key role in

defining our future orientations and business strategies.

"Renowned for his dynamic approach and his thoroughness, he will help the company reach its business goals and make sure that our products continue to stand out in amusement parks and tourist attractions around the world," Yale added.

Larose said: "I am very proud to put the expertise I have gained since 2004 to work on behalf of the company and to tackle this new challenge. I had the good fortune of seeing Triotech grow on the world stage and am convinced that we can go even further in the next few years."

.....  
**ATTRACTIONS-KIT KEYWORD**  
**TRIOTECH**  
.....



● Triotech is a manufacturer of multi-sensory interactive attractions

6-8 MARCH 2019

### IAAPI Expo

**Bombay Exhibition Centre,  
Goregaon East, Mumbai, India**

The three day exhibition will provide a platform to share and learn new ideas. Big players from the industry will share their learning, innovative ideas, schemes and experience. As well as a large show floor, there is also a seminar programme.

Tel: +91 902 903 1643

Contact: [info@iaapi.org](mailto:info@iaapi.org)

[www.iaapi.org](http://www.iaapi.org)

25-27 MAR 2019

### Dubai Entertainment Amusement and Leisure Exhibition (DEAL)

**Dubai World Trade Centre,  
Dubai, United Arab Emirates**

DEAL is the region's largest trade show for the theme park and amusement industries. In 2019, the event will be celebrating its 25th anniversary. Its popularity as a marketplace for the region's visitor attraction industry means that it brings in some of the biggest names across the US, Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

Tel: +971 4 3435777

Contact: [lilia@iecdubai.com](mailto:lilia@iecdubai.com)

[www.dealmiddleeastshow.com](http://www.dealmiddleeastshow.com)

26-28 MARCH 2019

### Amusement Expo International

**Las Vegas Convention Center,  
North Hall 1, Nevada, US**

The three-day Amusement Expo International, targeting the amusement and FEC sectors, will consist of a one-day conference and educational schedule – covering a number of topical issues – followed by a two-day exhibition.

Tel: +1 708 226 1300

Contact: [info@amusementexpo.org](mailto:info@amusementexpo.org)

[www.amusementexpo.org](http://www.amusementexpo.org)



■ VAC, held each year since 2004, attracts the thought leaders of the UK sector

4 OCTOBER 2019

### VAC 2019

**QEII Conference Centre,  
London, UK**

The Annual National Conference of Visitor Attractions (VAC) is the pre-eminent event for all types of Visitor

Attractions in the UK. Run by the industry for the industry, VAC is firmly established as the key place to meet and network with contemporaries and to participate in a stimulating programme – whatever your interest in the sector.

[www.vacevents.com](http://www.vacevents.com)

9-11 MAY 2019

### Asia Amusement & Attractions Expo (AAA) 2019

**China Import & Export  
Fair Complex (Area A)**

This years event is set to cover an exhibition area of more than 100,000sq m, with 3,000 booths and more than 500 exhibitors. AAA – which as integrated with the CIAE & TPAE shows – has become the largest event of games, amusement, theme parks and attractions in Asia. It is an exciting market, as China is poised to surpass the US and become the largest theme park market in 2020. As a result, In 2019, AAA is expecting to double the turnout of international exhibitors.

Tel: +86-20-22106418

Contact: [grand.ti@grahw.com](mailto:grand.ti@grahw.com)

[www.aaaexpos.com](http://www.aaaexpos.com)

30 JUN - 10 JUL 2019

### UNESCO World Heritage Committee session

**Baku, Azerbaijan**

The 43rd session of Unesco's World Heritage Committee will take place

in Baku, Azerbaijan between 30 June and 10 July. The annual meeting aims to regularly examine the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List, adding or removing properties from the prestigious list as appropriate..

Tel: +33 (0)1 45 68 11 04

[whc.unesco.org](http://whc.unesco.org)

21-24 SEPTEMBER 2019

### ASTC 2019 Annual Conference

**Ontario Science Centre  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada**

The ASTC Annual Conference provides an opportunity to display products and services to the largest gathering of science museum professionals from across the globe. Nearly 2,000 attendees from science centres, museums, nature centres, aquariums, planetariums, and natural history museums will take part. They come to network, attend more than 100 sessions, and learn about products or services.

Tel: +1 202 783 7200

Contact: [kellies@astc.org](mailto:kellies@astc.org)

[www.astc.org/conference](http://www.astc.org/conference)



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# Attractions

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## MANAGEMENT NEWS



Recruitment headaches?  
Looking for great people?

## Attractions Management News can help

### Tell me about Attractions Management News

Whatever leisure facilities you're responsible for, the AM News service can raise your recruitment to another level and help you find great people.

### How does it work?

We work in partnership with you to get your job vacancies in front of qualified, experienced industry people via specially customised recruitment campaigns.

### There are loads of recruitment services, how is AM News special?

AM News is the only recruitment service in the industry offering job marketing in print, on digital, social, email, via an online job board and on video, so you get the best of all worlds for one competitive price.

### What are the most powerful features?

We position your job vacancy listings right next to our popular industry news feeds, so your career opportunities catch the eye of those hard-to-reach candidates who aren't currently job hunting.

In addition, to celebrate the 100th issue of AM News, we've also relaunched the website with fantastic enhanced search functionality which enables you to target the best candidates with a laser focus.

### I hear you're part of Leisure Media

Yes, we give you access to Leisure Media's entire network of print, digital, online and social brands, enabling you to build your profile as an Employer of Choice™ via **Leisure Opportunities, Health Club Management, Sports Management, Leisure Management, Attractions Management, and Spa Business/Spa Opportunities.**

### What packages are available?

We offer everything you need, from rolling Powerpack campaigns which earn you extra job marketing goodies and discounts, to targeted ad hoc campaigns, reputation management promotions, executive job marketing and open day and schools and apprenticeship marketing.

### Is there more?

Yes, we also offer a range of HR services through our sister company, HR Support, such as cv screening, shortlisting and interviewing to final shortlist.

### What now?

We have packages to suit all budgets and requirements and we'd love to talk to you about how we can partner to bring inspirational people into your organisation to give you that competitive advantage you know will make a difference.

### Meet the Attractions Management News recruitment team



Liz Terry



Julie Badrick



Paul Thorman



Sarah Gibbs



Chris Barnard



Gurpreet Lidder

Hope to hear from you soon on +44 (0)1462 431385 or email [theteam@leisuremedia.com](mailto:theteam@leisuremedia.com)





### Shift Manager

Manage a team of fun driven and enthusiastic magic and memorable experience makers. We are now looking for an exceptional Duty Manager to oversee the smooth and safe running of the retail aspects of the attraction on a daily basis. The Duty Manager will lead the Operational teams in their goal of delivering unique, memorable and rewarding experiences to all our guests.

**To Apply:** <http://lei.sr/g9d0z>

### Guest Experience Manager

Manage a team of fun driven and enthusiastic magic and memorable experience makers. The Guest Experience Manager will be the first point of contact for all guest issues.

They will help to lead the Operational and Commercial Teams in their goal of delivering unique, memorable and rewarding experiences to all our guests.

**To Apply:** <http://lei.sr/i316T>

**LEGOLAND Discovery Center** is just like jumping into a giant box of LEGO® bricks with an abundance of all things LEGO-tastic! With two exciting LEGO rides, MINILAND featuring the iconic landmarks of the USA, a 4D cinema complete with three films, themed LEGO play and building zones, there are simply more LEGO bricks under one roof than you could ever imagine.

#### Build yourself a better career at LEGOLAND Discovery Center Atlanta!

Do you have the Magic in you to create memorable experiences all for the love of fun? Do you wish to cast a spell of laughter and enjoyment to the people around you? Want to join a team that creates smiles and memories globally on a daily basis. Then you have the magic to be Team Merlin at LEGOLAND Discovery Center Atlanta!

#### About You

Minimum of 2-3 years of service industry experience with 1-2 years of supervisory experience in a visitor attraction, theme park, museum, hotel or theater environment; or equivalent combination of experience and education. High School Diploma or GED required. College degree preferred.

#### About The Benefits

In return you will find a competitive salary and benefits package (including a medical, vision, dental, life insurance and 401(k) matching plan offering), share program opportunities, and benefit from free entry to all of our Merlin attractions which also extend to family and friends. In addition, you can expect continued growth of joining an exciting, global organization.

Merlin Entertainments, plc Merlin Entertainments is a business built on fun. We are the world's second-largest visitor attraction operator. We operate over 100 attractions, eight hotels and three holiday villages in 22 countries across four continents and we run some of the best known names in global leisure. These include the likes of SEA LIFE, Madame Tussauds, the Dungeons, the Eye brand, and LEGOLAND. Whether you are serving delicious food, working in the office, maintaining the attractions, entertaining guest or operating rides, the objective is to provide a truly memorable experience and a great day out for all members of the family. We know this is a great place to work, but don't just take our word for it...click here to see us in action!

## A BRAND NEW VISITOR ATTRACTION



Silverstone has been synonymous with motor racing since the mid-20th century. It is now one of the most famous sporting venues in the world. The Silverstone Experience will tell the 'whole' Silverstone story.

Through the creation of The Silverstone Experience as a centre of focus and understanding, the heritage of Silverstone can reach a far wider audience than before and ultimately cement its position as the centre for British motor sport heritage.

The project will open in the spring of 2019 and the vision is to bring the extensive heritage of Silverstone and British motor racing to life through the creation of a dynamic, interactive and educational visitor experience.



## Retail Manager

A new and exciting opportunity has arisen to lead the Retail shop operation at The Silverstone Experience.

Salary: c £30,000 per annum

You will lead The Silverstone Experience Retail shop operation as well as being part of our Duty Management Team. You will ensure that our shop is commercially successful and exceeds our visitors' expectations by managing a small team of retail staff.

**For full job description, person specification and to apply: <http://lei.sr/Q9B5T>**

This is a fantastic time to join us and be part of the exciting journey through the past, present and future of Silverstone and British motor racing.

You must have a minimum of two years relevant experience in a high profile, high quality retail or attractions operation and it is essential that you have a GCSE English and Maths – Grade C or above. A degree level qualification in a related discipline is desirable but not vital.





Gulliver's have enjoyed more than 40 years of delivering great value family fun; with resorts in Warrington, Matlock Bath, Milton Keynes and a brand new resort opening at Rother Valley in 2020. Our resorts include Theme Parks, Splash Zones, Blast Arenas, High Ropes experiences, Dinosaur and Farm Park, plus award winning Short Breaks in themed hotels, lodges and camping. We're looking for ambitious, high energy, hard working individuals who want to share in our exciting future!

## Trainee Manager Programme

With a hands-on approach and excellent communication skills, you'll be used to organising and dealing with customers, be innovative with your ideas and have an infectious enthusiasm that engages and inspires those around you.

The Trainee Manager programme will be structured over a 12 month period starting in May 2019 and will include:

- A number of placements across different areas of the business.
- First class training programme to develop skills and knowledge.
- Senior level mentoring from within the business and access to external development coaches and experts.
- Ownership of bespoke projects which will challenge skills and develop learning.

**Trainee Manager candidates MUST send a covering letter with their application.**  
**Closing Date: 29th March 2019.**

## Theme Park Roles

Discover a large number of seasonal roles ideal for all, from students to retirees. We make sure that team members are given the chance to really develop and progress within the company. With such a diversity of areas and attractions here at Gulliver's, we have all kinds of roles available, including:

- 🌀 Ride Operatives
- 🌀 Entertainers
- 🌀 Catering & Retail
- 🌀 Park Care & Maintenance
- 🌀 Blast Arena Warriors
- 🌀 Splash Marshals

To apply, please email your CV and details to the careers email below.

**To Apply, Please Email Your CV and Details to: [careers@gulliversfun.co.uk](mailto:careers@gulliversfun.co.uk)**



The Heide Park Resort is Northern Germany's largest theme park and day out adventure with more than 40 Attractions and shows. Heide Park Resort is part of the British Merlin Entertainments plc, Europe's largest provider of leisure attractions.

If you feel like entering this exciting adventure world and putting smiles on the faces of our guests, then apply now!

Das Heide Park Resort ist Norddeutschlands größtes Freizeitpark-und Kurzreise-Abenteuer mit mehr als 40 Attraktionen und Shows. Das

Heide Park Resort ist Teil der britischen Merlin Entertainments plc, Europas größtem Anbieter von Freizeitattraktionen.

Wenn Du Lust hast, in diese spannende Abenteuerwelt einzutreten und ein Lächeln auf die Gesichter unserer Gäste zu zaubern, dann bewirb Dich jetzt!

## HR Generalist

### What can you inspire us with?

- Completed studies in economics with a focus on human resources or a comparable commercial education
- Experience in recruiting
- Knowledge of employment and industrial constitution law

### What awaits you:

As an employee of Heide Park Resort, you will experience an extraordinary, unusual everyday work environment with opportunities for personal development as well as flexible working time models.

Team spirit and creativity are part of our corporate culture.

In addition, numerous employee benefits await you at Heide Park Resort and other Merlin Attractions.

### Have we sparked your interest?

Then do not wait any longer and send us your complete application documents stating your salary requirement.

## HR Generalist

### Womit kannst Du uns begeistern?

- Abgeschlossenes Studium im Bereich Wirtschaftswissenschaften mit dem Schwerpunkt Personal oder eine vergleichbare kaufmännische Ausbildung
- Erfahrung im Bereich Recruiting
- Kenntnisse im Arbeits- und Betriebsverfassungsrecht

### Was erwartet Dich:

Als MitarbeiterIn im Heide Park Resort erlebst du ein außergewöhnliches, nicht alltägliches Arbeitsumfeld mit Möglichkeiten zur persönlichen Entwicklung sowie flexiblen Arbeitszeitmodellen. Teamgeist und Kreativität sind Teil unserer Unternehmenskultur. Zudem erwarten dich zahlreiche Mitarbeiter-Vergünstigungen im Heide Park Resort und anderen Merlin Attraktionen.

### Haben wir Dein Interesse geweckt?

Dann warte nicht länger und sende uns bitte Deine vollständigen Bewerbungsunterlagen unter Angabe Deiner Gehaltsvorstellung.

For more information and to apply /

Für weitere Informationen und zur Bewerbung: <http://lei.sr/B5J5V>





## Visitor Centre Manager

(£25,000 to £27,350 per annum, dependent upon experience)

This is an exciting opportunity to oversee the management of the Visitor Centre in Ferry Meadows, creating an engaging and welcoming hub for visitors to the Park.

The right candidate will be enthusiastic and able to deliver high standards of customer care. They will be responsible for leading on the retail operation relating to Nene Park Services and the retail areas located in the Visitor Centre and the Trust's Water Sports and Activities Centre, Nene Outdoors, promoting local producers and products produced from within Nene Park.

**CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 5PM MONDAY 1ST APRIL**

**For further information and to apply:**

**<http://lei.sr/W5w5w>**

For more details on the following jobs visit  
[www.attractionsmanagement.com](http://www.attractionsmanagement.com) or to  
 advertise call the team on +44 (0)1462 431385



### Human Resource Manager

Salary: Circa £32,000 per annum  
 Company: Eureka  
 Location: Halifax, UK

### Attraction Managers

Salary: £39,966 - £46,960  
 Company: Welsh Water  
 Locations: Conwy, Powys, Pontypool, UK

### Visitor Experience Manager

Salary: £32,392 - £37,027  
 Company: Welsh Water  
 Locations: Conwy, Powys, Torfaen, UK

### Catering Manager

Salary: £23,700 - £27,000  
 Company: Welsh Water  
 Location: Conwy, UK

### Visitor Services Manager

Salary: Competitive  
 Company: Yorkshire Wildlife Park  
 Location: Branton, Doncaster, UK

### Theme Park Trainee Managers

Salary: Competitive salary and benefits  
 Company: Gulliver's Theme Park  
 Location: Nationwide, United Kingdom

### Seasonal opportunities

Salary: Competitive  
 Company: Gulliver's Theme Park  
 Location: Nationwide, United Kingdom

### HR Generalist (m/w)

Salary: Competitive  
 Company: Heide Park Resort  
 Location: Soltau, Germany

### Shift Manager

Salary: Competitive  
 Company: Legoland Discovery Centre  
 Location: Atlanta, Georgia, USA

### Events & Education Team Leader

Salary: Competitive  
 Company: Legoland Discovery Centre  
 Location: Auburn Hills, Michigan, USA

### Facilities Manager

Salary: Competitive  
 Company: The Dungeons  
 Location: San Francisco, California, USA

### Guest Experience Manager

Salary: Competitive  
 Company: Madame Tussauds  
 Location: Orlando, FL, USA

### Visitor Centre Manager

Salary: £25,000 to £27,350 per annum  
 Company: Nene Park  
 Location: Peterborough, UK

### Assistant Director Visitor and Site Operations

Salary: Circa £42,000 per annum  
 Company: Eureka  
 Location: Halifax, UK

### Water Park Coordinator

Salary: Competitive  
 Company: Legoland  
 Location: Carlsbad, California, USA

### Aquarist

Salary: Competitive  
 Company: Sea Life  
 Location: Bloomington, Minnesota, USA

### Facilities Technician

Salary: Competitive  
 Company: Legoland Discovery Centre  
 Location: Kansas City, MO, USA

### Executive Administrative Assistant

Salary: Competitive  
 Company: Merlin Entertainments Group  
 Location: Goshen, New York, USA

### LEGO Technical Designer

Salary: Competitive  
 Company: Legoland  
 Location: Lake Wales, FL, USA

### Sales Coordinator

Salary: Competitive  
 Company: Madame Tussauds  
 Location: San Francisco, CA, USA

### Guest Experience Manager

Salary: Competitive  
 Company: Legoland Discovery Centre  
 Location: Atlanta, Georgia, USA

For more details on the above jobs visit [www.attractionsmanagement.com](http://www.attractionsmanagement.com)



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