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MEDIA RELEASE

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Riga to host travelling European Space Expo in May

Riga, 10 March 2015

The travelling European Space Expo exhibition will open its doors to visitors from 30 April to 10 May in the Esplanade Park in Riga. The exhibition presents the achievements of the EU Space Programme and entrance will be free of charge.

For 10 days the impressive dome-shaped pavilion erected in the Esplanade Park will offer an extensive programme for different audiences - from schoolchildren to policy-makers. The exhibition showcases space from research and technology as well as economic perspective. The exhibits provide an interactive presentation of how European Union investment in space research benefits EU citizens in their everyday life.

Space Expo is the largest travelling space exhibition in Europe. It has already visited major European cities, attracting over 510 000 visitors. The special setting of the pavilion with its moving satellites and starry sky will give visitors the sensation of being part of the universe. The interactive globe positioned at the centre of the exhibition will give information on world population density, temperature changes over the years, the number of airplanes in the sky and other interesting facts. Interactive stands will be supplemented by fascinating expert presentations, which will allow visitors to learn more about space technologies, Latvian experience in space research and the future potential of space.

The *Z(in)oo* Children's Scientific Centre from the Latvian town of Cēsis will offer an exciting programme of activities outside the pavilion. Each visitor will have the opportunity to make their own air rocket and try out different *Z(in)oo* exhibits. According to the director of the centre and space enthusiast Mr Pauls Irbins, this exhibition is a fantastic opportunity to show that space is not only about rockets and aircraft — the technologies required for space research are also used in day-to-day life.

Traditionally, Space Expo is oriented especially towards schoolchildren, and the exhibition in Riga will offer in-depth tours for school classes. We kindly invite school groups to apply soon to visit the exhibition by registering online at <http://spaceexpo.spacetecpartners.eu/riga>.

The European Space Expo is organised by the European Commission and will be hosted in Latvia by the Ministry of Education and Science in cooperation with *Z(in)oo*.

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