



## Wunderkammer Wissenschaft begins in Berlin

Berlin, 22 September 2009 – Wunderkammer Wissenschaft, or “the cabinet of scientific curiosities”, is a new travelling exhibition organised by the Helmholtz Association. Germany’s largest research organisation is inviting visitors to explore the whole spectrum of science through fascinating images of the tiniest nano-worlds to the most gigantic large-scale devices. The exhibition opens in Berlin’s Museum of Technology (Deutsches Technikmuseum) on 23 September 2009 and runs until 1 November.

What holds the universe together at its innermost folds? What role do diatoms, microscopic algae, play in the development of lightweight car rims? What turns bacteria and viruses into pathogens? Can we succeed in bringing the power of the sun to earth and so secure the supply of energy for future generations? These and other big questions the scientists of the Helmholtz Association are tackling today. They reveal the secrets of energy, space, time and the structure of matter; they develop aircraft, storage devices and next-generation photovoltaic cells; they discover previously unknown chemical elements, invent new materials and find new ways of treating diseases. To perform these tasks, they take a wider view – from as far away as outer space – and scrutinise things from very close quarters, peering right into the structure of matter and analysing the most minute particles.

The Helmholtz Association’s travelling exhibition Wunderkammer Wissenschaft features around 500 multimedia exhibits to lure guests into exploring the fascinating world of science. The sounds and images – moving in both senses of the world – show how Helmholtz researchers bring the universe into the laboratory to explore antimatter and delve into the mysteries of dark matter. The exhibition also provides unexpected insight into the anatomy of a 260 million-year-old dinosaur and demonstrates why it is important that carbon nanotubes are 20 times as hard as steel yet as light as aluminium.

Prof. Jürgen Mlynek, President of the Helmholtz Association, said about the concept behind the exhibition: “We want to take an innovative approach to showing the public what major questions of the day our scientists are currently tackling in our six research fields of Energy, Earth and Environment, Health, Key Technologies, Structure of Matter and Aeronautics, Space, and Transport. The exhibition is intended to be a visual experience that dispenses with long-winded explanations.” Large LCD monitors in the 16 “cabinets” showcase impressive pictures taken with cutting-edge imaging technologies. Visitors can view the world as seen through powerful microscopes, satellites, computer animations and X-rays, and study photographs of research equipment, objects and facilities. An accompanying booklet provides additional information about the research behind the images, and visitors can directly access the exhibition’s own website ([www.wunderkammerwissenschaft.de](http://www.wunderkammerwissenschaft.de)) on touch screen monitors to learn more about the individual pictures. They can also hear astounding stuff about the work performed by Helmholtz scientists at listening posts throughout the exhibition.

**The first stop of the Helmholtz Association’s travelling exhibition Wunderkammer Wissenschaft is the Deutsches Technikmuseum, Trebbiner Straße 9, 10963 Berlin, from 23 September to 1 November 2009 (Tuesdays to Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; closed Mondays).**

The Helmholtz Association contributes to solving major challenges facing society, science and the economy with top scientific achievements in six research fields: Energy, Earth and Environment, Health, Key Technologies, Structure of Matter, Aeronautics, Space and Transport. With 28.000 employees in 16 research centres and an annual budget of approximately 2.8 billion euros, the Helmholtz Association is Germany’s largest scientific organisation. Its work follows in the tradition of the great natural scientist Hermann von Helmholtz (1821-1894). [www.helmholtz.de](http://www.helmholtz.de)

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