

Press release
Immediate release

OPAL UK JOINS GLASGOW'S SCIENCE HUB TO TOTAL 55 PARTNERS

Glasgow City of Science has signed up its 55th partner, as Open Air Laboratories (OPAL) network joins the umbrella organisation.

Glasgow City of Science (GCoS) is a pioneering partnership that aims to raise the profile of the region as a world-class science destination and leverage science and technology to boost sustainable economic development and quality of life.

OPAL, a UK-wide citizen science initiative that allows people to get hands-on with nature, whatever their age, background or level of ability, is funded by the Big Lottery Fund and led by Imperial College London. The project is based around six citizen science surveys using everything from bug counts to pond dipping to collect UK wide data about the health of our natural environment.

Professor Tracey Howe, Deputy Chair of Glasgow City of Science said: "Reaching a total of 55 partners is a fantastic milestone for Glasgow City of Science. OPAL is a highly regarded UK wide initiative recognised by government, academia and major organisations associated with the natural environment and in science education. The project is generating important scientific data, so understandably we are extremely pleased to welcome them on board."

OPAL Director Dr David Slawson said: "OPAL is thrilled to become a partner to Glasgow City of Science. During our short time together working on rolling out the OPAL project in Scotland, it has become clear what a progressive, innovative and energetic organisation Glasgow City of Science is. "These are vital attributes to help us engage people with science, in particular to inspire citizens to get actively involved with some of today's major environmental issues, such as loss of biodiversity, the health of our trees and air, water and soil quality."

For more information about Glasgow City of Science please visit www.glasgowcityofscience.org

Ends

Issued on behalf of Glasgow City of Science by The BIG Partnership. Please contact Roisin McGrath for further information on 0141 333 9585/07768120285, or email: roisin.mcgrath@bigpartnership.co.uk

Notes to editors:

Glasgow City of Science is a pioneering partnership that aims to ensure everybody in the city region benefits from science and technology.

It recognizes the importance of communicating science as part of Glasgow and the West of Scotland's heritage and culture.

The emergence of the Glasgow City of Science initiative signalled a commitment from multi-sector partners to work smarter together to leverage the region's scientific potential as a major driver of sustainable economic development

It is based in Scotland's largest city, which is a focus for innovation and great place to invest. A city with great people and a high level of education and skills. A city committed to the growth sectors of the economy, all of which have a science element.

OPAL UK

The Open Air Laboratories (OPAL) network, led by Imperial College London, is a UK-wide partnership initiative that inspires communities to discover, enjoy and protect their local environments through citizen science-based activities.

OPAL began in 2007, operating across England and funded by a Big Lottery Fund – Changing Spaces grant. Since January 2014, the programme has expanded to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland thanks to a further award from the Big Lottery Fund's Supporting UK-wide Great Ideas programme.

For more information, please visit www.opalexplornature.org or follow us on Twitter @OPALNature