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The Children's Museum Announces Premier of Travelers Science Dome at the Gengras Planetarium

West Hartford, CT (September 25, 2007) On Saturday, October 6, 2007 The Children's Museum will open its fulldome digital science planetarium. Audiences will experience space and sky shows based on real astronomical data and fulldome multimedia movies in the NEW Travelers Science Dome.

The new digital technology, a SciDome system, is manufactured by E & S Spitz, Inc. of Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania. SciDome uses a single fisheye lens and a powerful computer processor to project a seamless video image on the 40-foot dome. This enables the operators to present real-time three dimensional space simulations and fulldome multimedia shows. The technology enables the Museum to expand its programming beyond astronomy and space science to include biology, oceans, dinosaurs, geology, meteorology, and even the arts. The upgrade will make the Museum's planetarium one of the most advanced in New England.

In June 2007 Travelers awarded The Children's Museum a \$236,000 grant to upgrade the technology in the Gengras Planetarium. The award was announced by Museum Trustee, Robert Brody, Senior Vice President of Risk Control at Travelers, at the Museum's 11th annual gala last June 8.

An exciting schedule of fulldome shows for both school and public audiences in October are:

- *"Oasis in Space"* - a journey through the Solar System from its origins in a cloud of dust to the newly discovered icy bodies near Pluto. All ages will enjoy the search for water in a celestial neighborhood.
- *"Zula® Patrol – Under the Weather"* - a planetarium adventure with the alien characters from the PBS children's program. Multo and his fellow scientists are collecting samples of weather from the planet Zula. When their pet Gorga runs

- away, they must chase him to our Solar System while avoiding the villain Dark Truder and his devious plans.
- “*The Secret of the Cardboard Rocket*,” - the most popular children’s program, is remixed with 3-D animation from George Lucas’ Skywalker Ranch. Two children fly through the Solar System, led by a talking astronomy book, and visit all the planets before returning to awaken back home.
 - “*Molecularium – Riding Snowflakes*” - introduces us to Oxy, the Oxygen atom, and her friends Hydo and Hydra. They travel and sing across the Universe to investigate how atoms form molecules, polymers, and metals. Then, they shrink down to the atomic level to ride a snowflake as it builds and turns to rain.
 - “*Astronaut with Ewan McGregor*”, - opening January 2008, explores what it takes to be an astronaut. Explore inner and outer space, from floating around the International Space Station to maneuvering through the human body. Discover the perils of space flight as we subject ‘Chad’, the test astronaut, to everything that space has to throw at him.

The addition of the Travelers Science Dome continues the Gengras Planetarium’s tradition of inspiring and educating over a million visitors since 1968. Established in 1927, The Children’s Museum changed its name in 2006 from the Science Center of Connecticut to renew its focus on children under twelve and their families. In addition to the Museum and the Gengras Planetarium, the organization includes the United Technologies Wildlife Sanctuary, Roaring Brook Nature Center in Canton, CT, and The Children’s Museum Preschool, one of the oldest preschools in the country. The Children’s Museum serves close to 160,000 people annually, is the fifth oldest children’s museum in the country, and is Connecticut’s largest museum. Located at 950 Trout Brook Drive in West Hartford, the Museum is accessible from I-84 Exit 43 and offers free parking. For more information and specific show schedules, visit the website: www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org