



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

'London Play' Charity Space Challenge

The organisers of the London Model Engineering Exhibition have launched a competition with north London based charity London Play, challenging children to create their own fantasy spaceships out of found and junk materials.

Teams of children from adventure playgrounds, community groups, schools and play streets will be invited to let loose with cardboard boxes, packing tape, old fabric, bits of wood or plastic, the inevitable tinfoil and whatever other materials they can get their hands on. They will work together to build an 'out of this world' life-sized spaceship and enter the competition by sending in photos of themselves 'driving' their spaceships and being 'beamed up' into space.

The Space Challenge will be open to teams of up to 10 children, aged between 5 and 16 years old. To enter, teams will need to send in five good quality digital photographs to London Play via info@londonplay.org.uk by Tuesday 5 January 2016.

London Play will share the photos on Facebook and select the winning team. The winners will be invited as special guests to Alexandra Palace, London Model Engineering Exhibition on Saturday 16th January 2016 and will help to construct a giant Star Trek themed mosaic on-site using LEGO.

Exhibition Manager Avril Spence said: "The competition is a fun way for the children to design, construct, and problem solve and work together as a team. The competition enables disadvantaged children that are living locally a free, fun and educational day out with their carers in a safe environment. 2016 commemorates the 50th anniversary of Luna 9 launch its first successful landing on the moon and the 50th anniversary of the cult television series 'Star Trek'".

She continued "The London Model Engineering Exhibition is regarded as the Largest Model Engineering and Modelling Exhibitions in the UK and is now in its 20th year. The 2016 event will be packed with hundreds of displays from traction engines, collections of scale model ships, scale steam engines, remote control trucks, boats and aeroplanes plus futuristic rockets and much more for the kids to explore! We hope to inspire children into engineering, and have numerous 'hands on' areas for them to participate".

The London Model Engineering Exhibition takes place at Alexandra Palace, London from the 15th – 17th January 2016. The exhibition boasts over 50 national and regional clubs and

societies showcasing over 2,000 examples of their members' work, plus over 55 trade stands and specialist suppliers launching new products, show offers and advice.

The show also welcomes the return of the Tamiya Truckin Group, Brickish, Fairy Bricks, The UK Tank Club, The Imagineering Foundation and the Polly Owners Group who provide free passenger rides behind the 5" gauge steam locomotives within the Great Hall.

With so much to see and do under one roof, The London Model Engineering Exhibition is a great day out for all the family whatever the weather!

Fiona Sutherland, London Play's communications manager said: "London Play is really pleased to be involved in the London Model Engineering Exhibition through this competition. This great initiative will fire the imaginations of hundreds of children and get them working and building together. Not only that but it will also give kids who might not otherwise have had the opportunity, the chance for some serious inspiration and VIP treatment at the exhibition itself."

Notes to editors

London Play is a small North-London based charity that strives to get more children in London playing out more often. In our city of 1.6m children, one child in four lives in an overcrowded home; one in five is obese; and open play space is under continual threat of development. The charity works on behalf of all London's children, to promote their right to play, campaign for more and improved out-of-school play services for children and young people across London, and support play workers and volunteer groups in the capital. They also directly provide more play opportunities for children by supporting residents and councils to develop play streets, building nature play areas and running events.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please call the ticket line on 01926 614101 or visit: www.londonmodelengineering.co.uk

The South's Major Showcase of Modelling Not to Be Missed!

Date & Times:

Friday 15th – Sunday 17th January 2016

Open 10am – 5pm Friday and Saturday and 10am - 4.30 Sunday.

Last entry is 4.00pm Friday and Saturday and 3.00pm Sunday.

Model Active Zone closes at 3.30pm on the Sunday

Cash Box opens at 9.00am each morning before the event opens at 10.00am

Admission:

Ticket	On Line Tickets before 8th January 2016	Full Price Tickets on the Door
Adult	£9.50	£11.00
Senior Citizen/Student	£8.50	£10.00
Child (5-14)	£3.00	£4.00

If you call to book a ticket over the phone there will be a £1.00 administration fee on top of the on line ticket price to a maximum value of £3.00 per order.

For groups of ten or more discounts are also available. Please quote GRP10.

Notes to Editors:

For high resolution event images, interviews or to discuss consumer competitions and promotions, please contact Rebecca Leppard or Helen Holness on T: 01452 260063 or email rebecca@eventspr.co.uk