



## Media Release

20 August 2009

### Last chance to talk to the stars

Australians have a final opportunity to send a message to potential intelligent life beyond Earth thanks to Hello From Earth, an initiative launched as part of National Science Week.

With the website closing at 5.00pm on Monday 24 August, there are now only four days left for the public to post their goodwill messages on the website. At 5pm, all messages collected for transmission to the nearest Earth-like planet outside our Solar System likely to support life, Gliese 581d.

Since its launch, the Hello from Earth site has attracted enormous international attention, with more than 200,000 visitors to the site and almost 22,000 registered messages from people across 203 countries.

Some contributors have been welcoming of future contact, such as Tamasin from Richmond, Victoria who writes, *"If you come to earth look into: music, the beach, ice cream, hugs, family, love, dancing, cheese, trampolines, friendship, books and dreams. Just for a start."*

Or Vladamir Vasquez from Barquizimeto, Brazil who writes, *"We are humans from planet Earth in the Solar System, we want to know you better and to share our knowledge of our universe."*

Others have chosen to inspire the next generation such as Daniel Gane, of Perth who talks of the future, *"I'm writing this message for my soon-to-be-born daughter, Aaliyah. May she, in her lifetime, get the chance to communicate with you as I am doing today. Peace."*

And Jiayu of Sydney, Australia who, at 6 years of age, adds this message *"My dad helped me send this greeting on my behalf cause by the time I receive a reply from you (if any) I will be 42 Earth years old. Hope we can be friends then."*

Finally there are the comedians, and there are many.

Don from Denton, Unites States, references Star Wars with *"These are not the droids you're looking for,"* while Nick Eley from Palmerston North, New Zealand offers to *"trade you one space-time continuum for 20 space credits."*

And then there is 'Bilbo Baggins' from Perth, Australia, *"Greetings, I'm 24 and I'm looking for a serious committed relationship. Could you be the one? I hope you speak English otherwise we are both doomed."*

Regardless of the sentiment, thousands of people from across the world have already embraced the opportunity to send their message, and with the countdown on to the end of National Science Week and the closure of the site, there is only a small window of opportunity to post your message.

Messages can be up to 160 characters and will be transmitted from the Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex at Tidbinbilla, jointly managed by NASA and the CSIRO.

Spokesperson for Hello From Earth and editor of the Australian science magazine COSMOS, Wilson da Silva, said the project had excited global interest.

*"We've had messages from Afghanistan to Antarctica, from Morocco to Macau. More than 1,000 newspapers and 7,000 blogs around the world, in scores of languages, have covered this National Science Week initiative, and radio stations around Australia have been running competitions on what their listeners might say."*



# national science week

“It’s like a ‘message in a bottle’ cast into the stars – and it’s really captured the public’s imagination. What’s interesting is not just whether there’s anyone listening, but what people want to say to intelligent life on another planet. And the site is not only collecting messages, but publishing them online for everyone else to see.

“Hello From Earth is our way of showing that science can make the impossible possible. We have been to the Moon and now, we can speak to the stars,” Mr da Silva said.

The Hello From Earth site is a National Science Week initiative of COSMOS, Australia’s #1 science magazine, and has been developed with the support of NASA, the CSIRO and Questacon.

National Science Week is Australia’s largest national festival. Now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year, the event celebrates the nation’s scientific achievements, creates awareness of the importance of science and encourages students to pursue a career in science.

The 2009 festival runs from 15-23 August and includes over 800 events Australia-wide. National Science Week is proudly supported by the Australian Government and partners CSIRO, the Australian Science Teachers Association, and the ABC.

For more information and to see the messages, visit [www.HelloFromEarth.net](http://www.HelloFromEarth.net).

More information about National Science Week events and initiatives is available at [www.scienceweek.gov.au](http://www.scienceweek.gov.au).

ENDS

Media interviews and photo opportunities are available.

For further information please contact Leigh Exelby at shac Communications.

[leigh@shaccommunications.com](mailto:leigh@shaccommunications.com) (07) 5532 0157 0422 396 111

## VIDEO & IMAGES AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD

### **Video animation of Gliese 581d, the target planet**

Broadcasters: Standard Definition, High Definition 720p25, and ultra High Definition 720p50.

<http://bit.ly/14uDLG>

### **Video animation of the star system Gliese 581, including the target planet**

Broadcasters: Standard Definition, High Definition 720p25, and ultra High Definition 720p50.

<http://bit.ly/E7tjl>

### **Artist's impression of the planetary system Gliese 581**

High resolution still image

<http://bit.ly/CjQXy>

### **Illustration of Gliese 581 star system vs Earth’s solar system**

High resolution still image

<http://bit.ly/dawsN>

Attached: is a high resolution TIFF still image of the HELLO FROM EARTH website.

### **HELLO FROM EARTH intro video in High Definition**

Shot in High Definition 16:9 and broadcast quality (press HD button on YouTube panel)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1OatniokvM>