

Press Release 28 March 2019 No. 01 / 2019

Futurium to Open on 5 September 2019

With a grand opening ceremony on 5 September 2019, the Futurium will go into operation. Situated directly on the River Spree, framed by Berlin's central station and the Reichstag building, this house of futures invites visitors of all ages to take a glimpse into the world of tomorrow. For this purpose, visitors have at their disposal an exhibition, the Futurium Lab, and an events forum spread over more than 5,000 square metres. Admission to the Futurium will be free of charge until the end of 2022, when its three-year test phase finishes.

A firm opening date has been set. On the evening of Thursday 5 September 2019, the Futurium will be opening its doors to the public. Its start will be marked by a grand opening ceremony, followed at the weekend (Friday 6 to Sunday 8 September) by an extensive programme of launch events. The Futurium will present itself in all its variety – visitors can experience its exhibition of the future featuring the three dimensions human, nature and technology, as well as the Futurium Lab that will invite them to try things out and get involved, along with a diverse programme of events.

The opening ceremony celebrating the launch of the Futurium will take place in the presence of Federal Chancellor Dr Angela Merkel and with invited guests in the afternoon of Thursday 5 September 2019.

Dr Stefan Brandt, the Director of the Futurium, says: "The Futurium regards itself as a location open to everyone in today's society for the exchange of views and perspectives on questions of the future. We wish to bring as many people as possible into contact with topics of the future and encourage them to participate in shaping our future. Therefore, we're especially delighted with the decision to make admission free for the first three years. This makes the Futurium accessible to all those interested, regardless of the financial situation they find themselves in. In this way, we've found a special means to do justice to the Futurium's guiding principle, namely, that *the Future concerns us all*."

With the Futurium, Berlin is welcoming an interdisciplinary house of futures into the very heart of the city. Visitors of all age groups are invited to engage themselves with different concepts of and for the future, that is, with different futures. The Futurium aims to provide space for the visions and approaches from science and research that help us solve the key challenges of the future. The question "How do we want to live?" always remains at the core of the issues under consideration.

The **exhibition** on the upper floor is divided into three large "thinking spaces" that focus on our future relationship with technology, with nature and with ourselves as human beings. Humanoid robots, greened skyscrapers, communal economies: the possible conceptions of the future are endless. The exhibition will introduce and discuss various proposals for possible futures against the background of such questions as: how do we want to work and live in the future? How do we want to deal with technological progress and shape it actively? What ethical and social consequences come with new developments? How can we find our full expression as individuals and conserve natural resources at the same time?

The **Futurium Lab** in the basement offers space for visitors to experiment, to work together with others, and to develop things for themselves. It features a workshop of the future that includes 3D printers, laser cutters, CNC milling machines and robot arms. The Showcase will present interactive and imaginative installations on topics such as biodesign, the architecture of the future or artificial intelligence. The Lab is also available for workshops and for the playful development of knowledge of the future.

The **events programme** provides impetus for the discussion of possible paths into a liveable future and the conducting of exciting debates on these topics. By means of the wide variety of participative formats, we wish to impart scientific content in a manner that stays close to real life. And at those points where rationality reaches its limits, the artistic confrontation with topics of the future enables new approaches.

Image material for download:

http://bit.ly/Newsroom_Futurium

Press contact at the Futurium:

Monique Luckas
Head of Communications

Futurium gGmbH
Alexanderufer 2, D 10117 Berlin

T + 49 (0) 30 40 818 97 70
F + 49 (0) 30 40 818 97 99

public.relations@futurium.de
www.futurium.de

About the Futurium

The Futurium is a house of futures. It unites under the same roof a museum of the future with vivid scenarios, a laboratory of the future in which visitors can make their own explorations, a forum of the future for dialogue between players from different spheres, as well as a stage of the future for scientific and artistic projects. Foreseeable, imaginable and desirable drafts of possible futures are presented and discussed at the Futurium. Getting to know what's new, questioning the familiar, and picking up on stimuli that lead to action – the Futurium allows its visitors a glimpse into the world of tomorrow. The major question “How do we want to live?” always remains at the core of the issues under consideration. The Futurium brings together experts and players from the spheres of science, politics, culture, business and civil society – in the exhibition and in experiments, in discussions and in performances, in workshops and in debates. More than 5,000 square metres on three floors are available for this purpose.