

Sky-Skan Press Release

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White House Star Party Inspires Kids With Wonders of Universe Astronomers and Scientists Gather With President Obama and First Lady to Inspire Students With Wonders of Universe Using Definiti Digital Planetarium

Washington, DC. The White House is hosting a star party and inviting DC-area middle school children, scientists, and amateur astronomers to take part. Sky-Skan will provide its Definiti PD II digital planetarium system for an up-close look at the solar system and beyond. The event is scheduled for the evening of October 7th. President Obama and the First Lady seek to highlight the President's commitment to science, engineering, and math education as foundational to economic growth of the United States. The evening's activities include stargazing with telescopes and portable planetariums.

"We're thrilled to be a part of this unique star party. Getting kids inspired for science and technology careers is a big focus for us and our planetarium customers" said Steven Savage, President of Sky-Skan. "We want to bridge the gap between the amazing science going on at organizations like NASA and the public, especially young people. To have the President bring together these groups for a night of star gazing is wonderful."

Sky-Skan's Definiti PD II is a nimble, portable digital planetarium system packed with data sets and the tools to put them on display with ease. It runs the same DigitalSky 2 software used in large planetariums around the world. Customers have begun using Definiti for more than astronomy, including the University of Notre Dame calling theirs a Digital Visualization Theater. Customers can fly into molecules and even import their own data to view in 3D.

For star parties, a portable digital planetarium system can add an enhanced close-up view of the planets and stars. The combination of live views through telescopes and virtual views under the planetarium dome provide the inspiration and education for a memorable experience. For Wednesday night's star party, Sky-Skan director of professional development Martin Ratcliffe will be at the controls and provide commentary to explore and explain the wonders of the Universe and inspire the school children to further their education in science and technology.

In 1967, Sky-Skan began creating unique special effects projectors for planetariums. In the 1980s, SPICE Automation products synchronized shows for planetariums and large-format film theaters. In the late 1990s, SkyVision sparked a digital revolution bringing fulldome video to planetariums. Today, advances in hardware and DigitalSky 2 software have resulted in Definiti, a fulldome digital theater system capable of real-time astronomy presentations in addition to other sciences, entertainment, and art. Definiti theaters include Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, Chicago's Definiti Space Theater at Adler Planetarium, University of Notre Dame, 'Imiloa Planetarium (Definiti 3D: world's first 3D stereo planetarium), Horizon Planetarium (Australia), the Queen Mary 2, and the Beijing Planetarium (Definiti 8K: world's first 8K resolution fulldome theater).

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