

Science ahoi!

A ship promises adventure, particularly if it offers an opportunity for interactive research. So it comes as no surprise that the exhibition ship MS Wissenschaft is extremely popular with both young and old. Every year, equipped with a new motto and a new exhibition, the ship embarks on another voyage up and down the rivers of Germany. The exhibition Wissenschaft im Dialog (Science in Dialogue) is developed and coordinated jointly with large German science institutions. It is sponsored by the Federal German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and other partners. For ten years now, Wissenschaft im Dialog has made the fascination of science and research tangible to children, young people and adults, by organising not just exhibitions but also science festivals and symposia and committing itself to debate and dialogue about research in Germany.

In 2009, the ship is dedicated to the future – in harmony with this year's science year topic: "Research Expedition Germany". It reveals that science is not only searching for

Wissenschaft im Dialog favours the waves over terra firma to show current research work in an interactive experience. As a mobile exhibition it can reach many more visitors.

answers to the big questions posed by mankind. It also defines everyday life – both now and in the future. For example, in a time when the robot will tidy up the nursery or the household medicine cabinet indicates that the medicines inside it have reached their use-by date. The following issues are discussed by the exhibition: Where will we live and work in the future? What modes of transport will we use? Who will help us when we are old or infirm? How will we spend our leisure time?

On the ship, numerous exhibits, many of them interactive, which have been lent by different scientific institutes, are displayed on 600 m². They are therefore derived directly from research and present visitors with the latest findings. In a generally understandable and entertaining way, they demonstrate how our future could look and what contribution German research is making to it. Visitors can also venture a glimpse into their own future by putting together their own future profile with the aid of the "visionator".

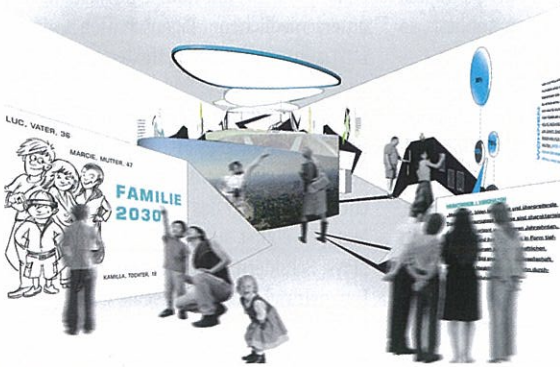
The exhibition is suitable for children from the age of 10. The ship of the future sets sail on June 4, 2009, from Bonn, and completes its journey on October 1, 2009, in Münster. During this period, it will call at more than 30 towns and cities along Germany's waterways, including Saarbrücken, Stuttgart, Frankfurt, Dortmund and Magdeburg.

The project has been implemented for the first time by Facts + Fiction with the assistance of Z-Punkt The Foresight Company, both of Cologne. As Facts + Fiction has been concentrating efforts on concepts for the exhibition and museum sector for several years now, since this spring the group has operated independently under the name Krafthaus. A team of concept designers, cultural scientists, architects and communications designers are the experts behind these holistic exhibition concepts. Their work has earned several national and international awards.

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Where will we live and work in the future?



Graphics: Facts + Fiction