



EVALUATION BRIEF: THE ASTRO SCIENCE CHALLENGE

Unlimited Theatre is looking to contract an evaluator to work alongside the company to evaluate *The Astro Science Challenge*, a national online participatory project for 7-11 year olds this Autumn 2015.

UNLIMITED THEATRE

Unlimited Theatre is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation and has been making work for over seventeen years gaining a significant national reputation.

“I went in with a heavy heart thinking the subject matter would be over my head. I came out wanting to help change the world. Brilliant.”
The Guardian on The Ethics of Progress

In 2010, as part of a touring production for children about space, we set up our own space agency – the Unlimited Space Agency (UNSA). Over the last five years, the agency has developed a series of award-winning projects, secured British astronaut Tim Peake as its patron and collaborated with partners like NASA and Met Office.

Please see more about Unlimited Theatre at: <http://unlimited.org.uk>

Please see more about Unlimited Space Agency at: <http://unspaceagency.com>

THE ASTRO SCIENCE CHALLENGE – PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Astro Science Challenge is an interactive science adventure for 7-11 year olds.

In December 2015 the [Unlimited Space Agency](http://unspaceagency.com)'s patron Tim Peake will become the first British astronaut to fly to the International Space Station (ISS) where he will live and work as a scientist for six months. To celebrate this event, we are running a large scale, interactive adventure in partnership with some of the UK's most brilliant space and science organisations.

Delivered via a secure online social networking site for schools, *The Astro Science Challenge* uses storytelling and game design to deliver a series of science based Missions, each one co-designed with one of our science partners on a curriculum linked theme:

- The Met Office (Space Weather)
- The Royal Observatory (Astronomy)
- The Science Museum (Rockets and Physics)
- Young Rewired State (Computer Science & Coding)
- European Space Agency “Mission X” (PE, Health and Nutrition)
- British Science Association (Human Spaceflight)

Each Mission will directly reference real science that Tim is performing on the ISS, alongside an engaging and playful narrative, with the whole adventure supported and endorsed by the UK Space Agency.

The Astro Science Challenge aims to address the following needs:

- The lack of engagement and attainment in Science subjects by younger children in UK schools, particularly girls.
- The lack of students in the UK choosing Science subjects at GCSE, A-Level and higher/further education.
- The impact this low engagement has on future workforce and innovation in the UK

The project was originally piloted with 30 UK primary schools in 2011, winning a series of prestigious awards:

- National Charity Award for inspiring children in science through the arts.
- Sir Arthur Clarke Award for achievement in Space Education & Outreach.
- WISE Champion Award for encouraging girls with STEM subjects.

"I loved the whole programme. It made science exciting and fun and the lesson plans were a fantastic help. The children were extremely motivated by the whole thing, every aspect excited them and they were engrossed in the characters created and the sense of competition." Teacher, Holy Trinity Primary London

Our significantly scaled up version for 2015 will be free for any UK school to take part in and delivered via [Makewaves](#) – a multi award winning, social networking platform dedicated to and trusted by primary schools across the UK.

EVALUATION BRIEF

We are now looking to work with an individual to design and deliver an evaluation process with the following aims:

- Quantitative data on levels of participation
- Qualitative data on motivational impact on science learning
- Quantitative and qualitative data on engagement of girls relative to boys
- A short paper for publication and distribution to stakeholders, arts organisations and other interested parties

We would expect the Evaluator to work closely with Unlimited Theatre to refine the evaluation framework, which should include data gathered pre, during and post project.

We have actively begun recruiting schools, with the main period that sees participants engaged in the project running from November to December 2015. We wish to appoint as soon as possible, and expect evaluation to start in October.

We would welcome applications from independent evaluators or PhD Students working within a relevant research context.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Please submit a one-page application outlining:

- Your relevant experience of evaluation frameworks and/or relevant research field
- Your anticipated approach to this evaluation.
- A proposed timeline for the evaluation based on the information above
- A budget for the work accounting for your time
- Please include contact details of two recent clients we can contact for a reference

Applications should be received by midnight **Monday 14th September**.

We will make a decision based on your response to the brief

The available budget is up to £2500 excluding VAT

Value for money will be a consideration (though not a primary factor) in our decision.

Please send your response to the brief by email to: mark@unlimited.org.uk

Or to discuss this role contact Executive Director Mark Hollander on 07855 424249