

## Summary

IYA2009 was a unique chance presenting astronomy. Different people from all around the world brought the sky closer to their earth. In Germany, 40.000 activities attracted more than 2 Million people. In Göttingen, a middle-sized town in the centre of Germany 8.000 participants were reached at about 150 activities by the offers of "Förderkreis Planetarium Göttingen" (FPG). Following the intention to popularize the modern scientific view of the world we took part in IYA 2009 with a series of events described in the following. Our proposition that astronomy may operate as an "initial drug" to natural sciences was confirmed. The latter was especially emphasized by the reactions of the children and teenagers. IYA2009 was a challenge for all involved persons and institutions. Continuing now and expanding this work will be our next duty.

## Events:

### 1. „Planetarium im Alten Rathaus“, a contribution to cornerstone project „100 hours of astronomy“, 2.–5. April 2009

**Location:** Historical town hall

**Content:** Information about IYA2009 and its global importance; advertisement for natural sciences and especially the building of a "Science Dome" in Göttingen

**Offer:** Full-Dome-Planetarium-shows in a 6m-inflatable dome with projection equipment borrowed from ZEISS, accompanied by poster presentation about historical development of the world view and technical realisations of modelling the universe by machines.

**Shows:** "Exploring the Universe"; "Origins of Life"; "The ABC of Stars"

**Result:** 1000 visitors in 35 sold out performances

#### 100 Hours of Astronomy – Inflatable Dome in the Historical Town Hall



Before starting the event



Waiting for the Show

The show starts presently

## Background

Since more than 200 years due to the work of C.F. Gauß (1777–1855) at the observatory has made Göttingen well known around the world especially for astronomy. The Mecca of "new" physics was in Göttingen in the 1920s when quantum mechanics and theory of relativity revolutionized sciences. Solely to mention the tip of the iceberg 47 Nobel prize awardees have worked at the University of Göttingen.



Opening Talk by ESA-Astronaut Thomas Reiter

Opening celebration



6m-Dome

ESA-Exhibition „Eyes in the Skies“



Full-Dome-Projection with definiti/TWIN

Astronomical and scientific offspring

### 2. „Unser Universum – Planeten, Sterne, Galaxien“, exhibition of astronomical and space science potentials of our region, 14.–26. September 2009

**Location:** Mall of a shopping centre

**Participants:** Department of Astrophysics, University of Göttingen; Max-Planck-Institute of Solar System Research; German Aerospace Center; University of Applied Sciences and Arts; FPG

**Content:** Information about the respective fields of interest and current research projects by poster presentations, short reviews and experiments around a self-made 6m-dome with full-dome-projection (see 1.).

**Offer:** Guided tours for preschool kids and school classes in the morning; full-dome-shows every full hour in the afternoon

**Shows:** Productions for IYA from ESA „Touching the Edge of the Universe“ and from ESO „In Search of our Cosmic Origins“; Co-production of german planetaria to the Darwin-year 2009 „Darwin and his fabulous Orchids“; the three shows listed above.

**Result:** 4500 visitors in 100 performances; approximately 16.000 people taking part in one or more offers in total:

### 3. „Himmliche Lichter und mehr“, a contribution to cornerstone project „Galilean Nights“, 23. Oktober 2009

**Location:** City centre of Göttingen;

**Content:** Information about Galilei's fundamental findings using the example of his observations of Jupiter

**Offer:** Astronomical talks, guided tours and rallies along the planetary path of Göttingen (see Poster 2); Info-point with observing facility

**Result:** 500 interested people, partly taking a look on Jupiter and his moons.



Galilean Nights, 23.10.2009

Searching for Jupiter

#### Anniversary of Landing on the Moon



Jesco v. Puttkamer reports on Apollo 11

### 4. Further contributions

In cooperation with local cinemas presentations of movies with some kind of relation to IYA („Space Odyssey“, „Star Trek 11“, „In the Shadow of the Moon“) combined with talks about a relevant theme by experts were organised. The anniversary of the landing on the moon was celebrated with a visit of Jesco v. Puttkamer one of the leading engineering scientist in the Apollo-program 40 years ago and now responsible NASA-Manager for the ISS-Crews.