

## Are you passionate about promoting your business and enthusing the next generation of young scientists?

The Big Bang: UK Young Scientists and Engineers Fair ([www.thebigbangfair.co.uk](http://www.thebigbangfair.co.uk)) offers an unprecedented opportunity to promote careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. The Big Bang is now entering its second year and will be held in Manchester Central from 11th to 13th March 2010.

The Big Bang celebrates the achievement and excellence of young people through the National Science and Engineering Competition, which culminates at The Fair, while engaging and inspiring them with a wide range of activities, presentations and events. The 2010 celebration will provide a focal point for the professional STEM community to engage and enthuse over 12,000 visitors, mostly young people, including those who have never considered the possibility of a career in science or engineering.

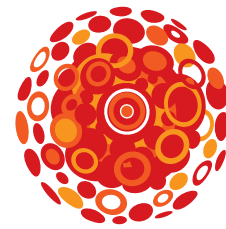
As a result of Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) sponsorship of the event, Northwest Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and selected NWDA funded projects will have the opportunity to exhibit at The Fair at zero cost and to promote – through interactive exhibits - exciting companies and science in the region.

We hope that you will consider participating in The Fair. In order to apply for a place, please visit <http://www.thebigbangfair.co.uk/NWDAinvitees>. Submissions will be accepted until 16th December 2009, however allocation will be made on a first-come-first served basis (subject to quality criteria) and as such organisations are encouraged to submit their proposal by 16th October in order to be included in the first review of submissions.

'Frequently asked questions' are provided for your information, however if you require any further information or have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact [claire.claessen@nwda.co.uk](mailto:claire.claessen@nwda.co.uk), 01925 400327.

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### Why is The Big Bang needed?

The future prosperity of the UK economy is dependent on having a thriving entrepreneurial culture of innovation and invention. Studying STEM subjects is less attractive to young people than it used to be. We need to encourage young people to become the scientists and engineers of the future thereby maintaining the lead in technological and scientific advancement that the UK has been renowned for.

### What is The Big Bang?

The Big Bang: The UK Young Scientists and Engineers Fair features the National Science and Engineering Competition and aims to celebrate achievement and excellence through the competition, while engaging and inspiring young people- exciting them about STEM in their future careers.

### What will be at The Big Bang?

The Big Bang will feature exhibits from over 70 organisations from business and industry - and from across the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) community.

There will be around 300 project stands representing the best entrants into the National Science and Engineering Competition.(see [www.nationalsciencecompetition.org](http://www.nationalsciencecompetition.org))

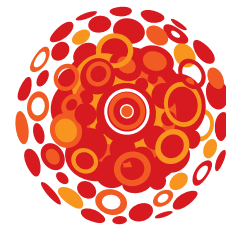
The Fair will feature around 120 scheduled activities, workshops, presentations – hands on activity or inspirational shows about science, engineering and technology. There will also be a dedicated Careers and Teacher Program (including a Saturday Workshop) making sure not only students get the most out of The Fair.

### When and where will The Big Bang be held?

The Big Bang is set for 11-13 March 2010 at Manchester Central. It will be open to students on the Thursday 11th and 12th March from 9:30am to 5:00pm. On Saturday 13th March The Fair will be open to the public from 10:00am to 4:00pm.

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### Why should I get involved?

Companies and organisations participating in The Fair will benefit from the opportunity to promote their business / science to over 12000 young people, teachers and parents.

### Do I need to attend for all the days of The Fair?

While we hope you will be able to spend the full three days at The Fair (Thursday 11th March to Saturday 13th March), we will be able to accommodate Thursday – Friday two day stands or single day, Saturday stands.

### What will I be expected to provide?

Participants will be expected to provide:

- i) An interactive exhibit designed to engage the imaginations of young people and
- ii) Personnel to run the exhibit for its duration.

### What will be provided?

We will provide you with floorspace and a stand at the exhibition.  
A tressel table, electricity and internet access will be provided on request.

### What support will I receive?

Small and medium companies who would appreciate support to tailor their exhibit and communication into the 'language of young people' may be eligible for free training provided by Catalyst Science Discovery Centre. For more information please contact [Jules@catalyst.org.uk](mailto:Jules@catalyst.org.uk).

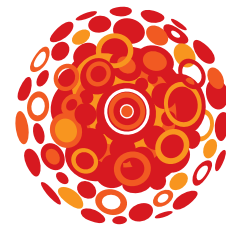
NB Your company must adhere to the European definition of Small and Medium Enterprise in order to be eligible for this support.

### What is the definition of an SME?

For the purposes of this event, an SME is defined as a UK operation with a headcount of less than 250 and either a Turnover of less than 50m Euro or a Balance sheet total of less than 43m Euro. Those enterprises owned by foreign companies and therefore part of a larger grouping WILL be considered eligible to apply.

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### How do I apply for space at The Big Bang?

If you wish to apply for exhibition space in the Northwest area of The Fair, please visit <http://www.thebigbangfair.co.uk/NWDAinvitees>

### What is the closing date?

We will accept applications up to the 16th December. However, we would encourage you to submit entries earlier as space will be allocated on a first come first served basis (subject to quality criteria being met).

### When will I be contacted?

We will be reviewing applications at monthly intervals from the 16th October until the 16th December. You will be contacted after the first monthly review that takes places after you have submitted your request.

### Are there any other ways I can participate in The Big Bang?

If you would like to increase the profile of your company/organisation at the event you can choose to become a sponsor.

For further information or a sponsorship pack please contact [sponsors@thebigbangfair.co.uk](mailto:sponsors@thebigbangfair.co.uk).

If you wish to provide an activity, workshop or run a presentation, visit [www.thebigbangfair.co.uk/activities](http://www.thebigbangfair.co.uk/activities) for further information and an online application form.

The call for activities will remain open until 16th December.

If you know of a school, club, STEM group or organisation thinking of competing in the National Science and Engineering Competition visit the Competition website at [www.nationalsciencecompetition.org](http://www.nationalsciencecompetition.org). The deadline for submission of competition entries is 30th October 2009.

If you are a parent, teacher or pupil looking to visit The Big Bang, the online registration will be launched shortly. Please email [info@thebigbangfair.co.uk](mailto:info@thebigbangfair.co.uk) to register your interest.

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