



Media only: John Gibbons (202) 633-5187
Michele Urie (202) 633-2950

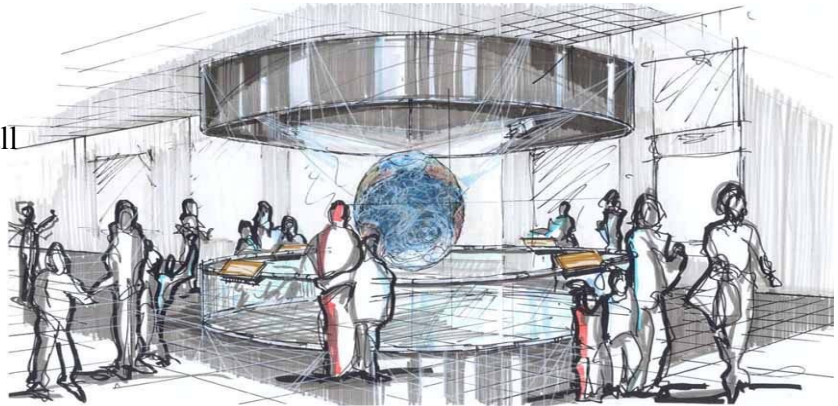
September 2008

Fact Sheet Science on a Sphere

Seen from space, the Earth's ocean is a powerful force—a broad swath of blue circling 71 percent of the planet. But a closer look at this global system reveals an impressive impact extending far beyond what can be seen with the naked eye. In fact, the ocean interacts with the land, atmosphere, sea floor—and even humans—to produce food and oxygen for the Earth's population, drive the weather and climate and continuously change the face of the planet over time.

Science on a Sphere, a state-of-the-art exhibit created by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, lets visitors to the Sant Ocean Hall witness these fascinating interactions through never-before-seen data and imaging.

The continuous 360-degree rotation of this globe allows visitors to easily view the featured images from all angles, giving them the perspective of an astronaut hovering 22,000 miles above the planet—an experience that cannot be replicated on the Internet.



There are four four-minute ocean-related programs (It Changes, It's Connected, It Interacts and It Produces) with narration and a short break between each. The programs feature exclusive satellite data collected 365 days a year and converted into dramatic visuals that address many of the vital phenomena affecting the planet today, including historical temperature, plate tectonics, currents and weather prediction models.

###

SI-324-2008

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION MRC 135 PO Box 37012 Washington DC 20013-7012 Telephone 202.633.2950 Fax 202.786.2982