

# Presenting in a dome

We invite all our presenters to read this document and familiarize themselves with the presentation possibilities available at our unique conference venue - the 3D fulldome theater Infoversum.

## Standard presentations

Our dome is equipped with a set up consisting of a PC computer (Windows 7) and a special projector which allows presenters to simply upload their presentations (.ppt, .pptx) and use them during their talks in much the same way it is done in any standard presentation facility. If you use a Mac computer, make sure you bring a converter from Mac to a standard VGA in order to connect to our projector. This is simple and familiar. However, as a presenter you are missing out on all the possibilities offered by a fulldome theater to make your presentation more visually powerful, effective and immersive. So read on...

## Dome presentations

The fulldome environment is ideal for:

1. Immersive data visualization that are naturally represented in a spherical/celestial coordinate system (astronomy data and simulations, climate data, etc)
2. 3D visualizations of objects
3. Displaying simultaneously on different parts of the dome a number of visuals (slides, videos, images, plots, etc) which when juxtaposed can facilitate deductions, inferences and decision making processes. Visualization facilities which offer such capabilities are often referred to as decision theaters.

There are multiple opportunities to utilize the dome to make your presentation more effective:

### **Option 1: Using the dome software to present a standard powerpoint/keynote presentation**

Using the dome software we can project simultaneously up to 5 slides (of the same or different size) of your presentation in any spatial configuration on the screen. For example, you can have three consecutive slides in a row with the current one larger than the rest. The flow through your presentation can be serial (slide 1,2,3->slide 2,3,4) or parallel ( slide 1,2,3 → slide 4,5,6). Or you can choose to have a particular image/slide fixed on a part of the dome throughout your presentation. For example, this could be the logo of your organization/group or the outline slide of your talk. These and many more options can be discussed with our productions team.

### **How to prepare**

When you prepare your powerpoint/keynote presentation be aware that each slide will be converted to a .jpeg image and imported in the dome software. The series of images (aka your slides) will be displayed on a large area of the dome with slightly lower resolution than the standard projectors which you are familiar with. To maintain the image sharp we recommend that you use high resolution graphics and large text fonts.

You need to deliver your presentation to our production team a few days in advance of your talk keeping in mind the following:

- Animations in your powerpoint/keynote (sliding text on a slide, zooming figure, etc) **will NOT** be available. The dome software works with image files only. Each slide of your presentation will be converted to a .jpeg image and animations will be lost in the conversion process. If you have embedded video/movie files in your presentation, please deliver those separately. The files must be in .mov, .avi and other video formats supported by Quicktime. Preferably, the resolution should be higher than 800 px in any dimension. These movies can be projected at any location of the dome and played when requested by the speaker.
- If you have embedded audio in your presentation, please submit the audio files separately
- Once you have delivered your presentation, please keep in mind that you can't make any changes to it. Your presentation needs to be rendered for a dome environment by our production team. This process is time consuming, and unfortunately doesn't allow for last minute changes.
- Once your slides are imported into the dome software, the navigation through your presentation is possible only via our trained operators. In a standard presentation you are in control of moving from one slide to the next ( via your laptop or a remote control). In the Infoversum, you will need to communicate continually with our operator whenever you want to move to the next slide, play a video, etc. Therefore, if possible, we recommend that you come to the Infoversum a day or two before your presentation to rehearse your talk with our operator and get a feel of how your presentation will look like on the dome.
- During your presentation and the Q&A session, we recommend that you keep in front of you a record of your slides and their numbers. If you'd like to move to a particular slide in your presentation (back or forward), you'll need to tell the operator the number of that slide.

### **Option 2: Using a combination of standard presentation and additional dome visuals**

If you opt out of using the dome software, you can still take advantage of the dome environment. SkySkan (the dome software system at the Infoversum) has a full astronomy database and allows you to use the dome as a standard planetarium. It also offers protein database models, GIS, and Digital Universe datasets. In addition, you can hand in different kind of visuals that can be processed for display in a dome environment by our production team. Below are several examples:

#### Still images

Images should have a minimum resolution of 800 x 800px. If you want an image to cover the entire dome, it has to have a resolution of 4k x 4k and should be handed in to our production team a few days in advance of your talk.

#### Scientific simulations and short animations

The output of the simulations should provide a series of frames of 4k x 4k (for fulldome display). Ideally, the data should be ready for dome projections which uses equirectangular projection. Simulation in other data format can be prepared by our production team but should be handed in at least 2 weeks in advance of your presentation. The standard frame rate for dome video is 30 fps.

#### DirectX models

If you already have a DirectX model of a 3D object you'd like to present, all you have to do is hand it in 1-2 days in advance. In addition, our production team can build DirectX model for you provided that you have images with enough information. This process take 1 week.

### **Practical Suggestions**

Regardless of whether you chose to use the standard presentation set up, or the dome software, the following tips will make your presentation look much better when displayed in the dome.

- We strongly recommend that you use black background for your presentation . This will ensure that the edges of your slides blend with the dome background resulting in a presentation where the objects from your slides seem to appear on the dome.
- We recommend that you use Sans Serif (Arial, Helvetica, Tahoma, etc) fonts instead of Serif fonts (Times New Roman, Palatino, Bookman, Cambria, etc) as they render much better on the dome.

### **Contact Information**

Please, direct all questions to [informationuniverse@rug.nl](mailto:informationuniverse@rug.nl) . Depending on the nature of your inquiries you will be directed to the right person among the Infoversum production team.

**THANK YOU!**