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## **SOMETHING “STRANGE” IS COMING TO THE SCIENCE MUSEUM**

### ***Strange Matter*, an exhibit all about the study of “stuff,” opens on Saturday, February 4**

St. Paul, MN – Beginning **Saturday, February 4**, visitors to the Science Museum of Minnesota will discover the secrets of everyday stuff when the ***Strange Matter* exhibit** opens in the U.S. Bank Great Hall on level 4 and is presented locally by Ford and 3M.

This hands-on exhibit delves into the world of materials science, or the study of “stuff.” A dynamic blend of physics, chemistry and engineering, this field of research studies how things are put together, how they might be improved, or how they can change to create brand new materials. From metals to crystals to magnets to glass, *Strange Matter* will give visitors the chance to dig into the science behind the materials they use every day. *Strange Matter* uses science to explore the bizarre world of modern materials and provide a glimpse into where the future of they might take us.

“At the Science Museum, we know that an understanding of science is essential to success in day-to-day life,” notes Science Museum president Dr. Eric J. Jolly. “Our goal is to get kids – and adults – excited about science. *Strange Matter* provides the perfect opportunity to make the science that touches our lives each day memorable and fun.”

Highlights of the *Strange Matter* exhibit include:

- **Smash the Glass:** Visitors will discover the amazing properties of heat-tempered glass when they crank up a bowling ball and let it fly. Will it take ten seconds, ten minutes, ten hours, or ten days of repeated impact before the glass will shatter?
  - **Amazing Magnetic Liquids:** Ferrofluids are liquids that respond to magnets. In this area of *Strange Matter*, visitors will use magnets to manipulate pools of ferrofluids, making them jump and dance.
  - **Amorphous Metals:** The unusual structure of amorphous metals makes them incredibly hard. Here, visitors will “test” different metals by dropping ball bearings on five different materials simultaneously.
- Crystals:** Visitors will see one of the world’s largest crystals, learn where crystals are present in everyday objects, and watch the beautiful, real-time growth of a crystal’s intricate patterns.

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- **Foam:** This strange material is present in all sorts of everyday objects. Visitors will watch as a foam tower climbs its way toward the ceiling, then compare it to aerogel, the lightest material ever made.

**STRANGE MATTER EXHIBIT AT THE SCIENCE MUSEUM OF MINNESOTA**  
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- **Memory Metals:** Here, visitors will use a robotic arm to bend and twist a Nitinol metal ribbon, a startling example of a metal with a “memory,” then see it return to its original shape with the addition of a little bit of hot air.
- **Demo Theater:** Staff from the Science Museum’s “Science Live!” theater program will do daily live demonstrations and invite visitors to join in a lab experiment to discover the ways in which we’re all materials scientists.
- **Touch Table:** At this interactive station, visitors will find instruments to help them explore the properties of assorted materials. They can use a microscope to get a closer look at the structure of common materials, experiment with “Tumble Tubes” and watch a solid material flow like a liquid, play tunes on a wooden xylophone and a xylophone of mixed materials and compare the music they create, and more.

In addition, thanks to help from the local chapter of the Materials Research Society, volunteers from the University of Minnesota, Goodrich, Medtronic, 3M, and Hysitron will be on hand each weekend conducting demonstrations and hands-on activities with visitors to the *Strange Matter* exhibit.

*Strange Matter* is produced by the Ontario Science Centre and presented by the Materials Research Society. The exhibition and its tour are made possible by the generous support of the National Science Foundation, Alcan, Dow, Ford Motor Company Fund, Intel® Innovation in Education, and the 3M Foundation.

After its February 4 opening, *Strange Matter* will be open daily during regular exhibit gallery hours. Admission is included in regular exhibit gallery admission (\$9.50 for adults, \$6.50 for kids 4 to 12, and \$7 for students and seniors). Combination exhibit gallery and Omnitheater admission is also available.

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Located at 120 West Kellogg Boulevard in downtown St. Paul, the Science Museum of Minnesota is the state's most popular museum attraction, serving one million people each year with its interactive exhibits, Omnitheater films, and educational programming. For prices, hours, and directions, visit [www.smm.org](http://www.smm.org). To make Omnitheater reservations, call (651) 221-9444.

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**Science Museum of Minnesota**

*Get fascinated!*