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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**VERIZON FOUNDATION AWARDS MOSI \$20,000 GRANT
TO FUND SCIENCE PROGRAM FOR TITLE 1 SCHOOLS**

Tampa, FL (October 12, 2007) – MOSI, Museum of Science & Industry, was awarded a \$20,000 grant from the Verizon Foundation to fund an all-new outreach program entitled, “*Blast Off With Science*,” projected to expose over 3,000 students from Title 1 schools to careers in the science of physics and aerospace.

“We’re so excited that through the help of Verizon we are able to fund the *Blast Off With Science* program to engage children and their families in active science learning. After all, it is programs like these that sustain MOSI’s mission of making a difference in people’s lives by making science real,” says MOSI President, Wit Ostrenko.

The *Blast Off With Science* outreach program will encourage Title 1 students to consider careers in science, promote further research and interest in the science of physics and aerospace, and provide Title 1 schools with a quality education program that entertains and educates children about the fun of science. Together, students alongside their family members will have the opportunity to use real telescopes and participate in Family Science Night/SkyWatch astronomy observations as well as take part in various astronomy activities. The program will travel to multiple Title 1 schools throughout the southwest Florida region.

The Verizon Foundation funds programs that address the heart of social issues such as literacy, technology education and domestic violence. Since 2000, the Verizon Foundation has invested more than \$400 million in the United States and around the world to help others. In 2006, they awarded more than \$69.4 million in grants to charitable and nonprofit agencies serving the needs of diverse communities. Verizon Foundation’s Non-profit Services are dedicated to providing essential tools to nonprofits to help plan, manage, and operate more efficiently. For more information on the Verizon Foundation, visit <http://foundation.verizon.com/>.

MOSI today is the result of 52 years of growth and maturity reflecting both on the institution and the surrounding community. With a total size of over 300,000 square feet, MOSI is the largest science center in the southeastern United States, and home to the only IMAX[®] *Dome* Theatre in the state of Florida. MOSI is a not-for-profit, community-based institution and educational resource that is dedicated to advancing public interest, knowledge, and understanding of science, industry, and technology. For more information on MOSI, visit www.mosi.org.

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About MOSI (Museum of Science & Industry)

MOSI is a not-for-profit, community-based institution and educational resource dedicated to advancing public interest, knowledge, and understanding of science, industry, and technology. With a total size of over 300,000 square feet, MOSI is the largest science center in the southeastern United States, and home to the only IMAX[®] *Dome* Theatre in the state of Florida. Kids In Charge! The Children’s Science Center at MOSI is the *largest* children’s science center in the nation. MOSI’s newest permanent exhibition, *Disasterville*, featuring *WeatherQuest*, combines education and 10,000 square feet of interactive exhibits on the remarkable science behind natural disasters. For more information, visit www.mosi.org.