



**Media Contact:**  
Tracy Shirer (tshirer@ctsciencecenter.org)  
860.520.2116

Connecticut Science Center | 250 Columbus Blvd | Hartford, CT 06103

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **New 3D Film, *Tornado Alley*, Whirls into the Connecticut Science Center on December 17**

### **Connecticut Debut of Storm Chaser Sean Casey's History Making 3D Adventure**

Hartford, CT (December 8, 2011) - Just in time for winter school vacation, a new 3D film is entering the Connecticut Science Center with quite a whirlwind. On December 17, 2011, *Tornado Alley*, narrated by Bill Paxton (*Twister*, *Titanic*) and featuring *Storm Chasers* star Sean Casey and fellow VORTEX2 scientists, premieres in the Science Center's state-of-the-art 3D theater. This action-packed movie follows Casey and the group of scientists studying the Verification of the Origin of Rotation in Tornadoes Experiment 2 (VORTEX2) as they chase and film tornadoes in their Tornado Inception Vehicle (TIV) across America's Plain states. The TIV is a 14,000 pound, military-style vehicle that has a self-leveling suspension system and can hold 92 gallons of fuel. Racing into the heart of the storm, the TIV is engineered to withstand the mighty winds that are partnered with the tornado. Add Sean Casey, his VORTEX2 and an IMAX camera to the TIV, and you have the recipe for a heart-pounding adventure.

*Tornado Alley* took over eight years for Sean Casey to create, with the help of VORTEX2, the largest tornado research group in history to explore how and why tornadoes form. With over 100 scientists, students and staff assisting from around the world, VORTEX2 made science history by strategically deploying all instruments on a tornadic supercell, as viewers can see in the movie. The audience is also introduced to Doppler on Wheels (DOW), a research instrument used to scan tornadoes from close up, a vital part of the tornado chasing system. All of these exciting resources combine to create the adventure of a lifetime.

The Hoffman Foundation Science Theater at the Connecticut Science Center offers stadium seating with 18,000-watt Dolby sound system to provide the ultimate cinema experience. Viewers will be able to explore the science of tornadoes on a 30'x40' screen and learn about all that goes in to chasing the cyclones. **Members only preview is Friday, December 16 from 6 to 7 PM. Registration is required by email to [membership@ctsciencecenter.org](mailto:membership@ctsciencecenter.org).** *Tornado Alley* is recommended for grades 2 and up and is sponsored by Alstom. To watch the trailer and learn more, please visit [CTScienceCenter.org](http://CTScienceCenter.org).

###

**About the Connecticut Science Center** The LEED-Gold certified Connecticut Science Center, located in downtown Hartford, sparks creative imagination and an appreciation for science by immersing visitors in fun and educational hands-on, minds-on interactive experiences while maintaining an environmentally conscious presence. Visitors experience over 150 exhibits in ten galleries and a range of topics, including space and earth sciences, physical sciences, biology, the Connecticut River watershed, alternative energy sources, Connecticut inventors and innovations, a children's gallery, and much more. Other features include four educational labs, a 200-seat 3D digital theater, function room, gift store and café, and ongoing events and lectures for all ages. The Science Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing science education throughout the state of Connecticut and New England, providing learning opportunities for students and adults of all ages, and engaging the community in scientific exploration. More information: [www.CTScienceCenter.org](http://www.CTScienceCenter.org) or 860.SCIENCE.