PRESS RELEASE · 19 NOVEMBER 2026 · FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE W26 PROJECT IS LAUNCHED: TRUE GLOBAL DISCLOSURE DOES NOT COME FROM A GOVERNMENT, IT COMES FROM SCIENTISTS AND RESEARCHERS IN 30 COUNTRIES

The truth about contact with other forms of life has never been so close

33 of the most respected scientists and researchers in the UFO world converge in W26 to unify world ufology, creating the first international digital archive and the first shared database, and building two research centres with national branches in every country. Truth as a collective good, in everyone's hands and owned by no one. The fundraising campaign to be part of it starts today.

[Planet Earth], 19 November 2026. In 2026 UFOs moved from the pages of mystery to the pages of politics. In February the President of the United States ordered federal agencies to identify and make public their files on UFOs and UAP. Since 8 May the Pentagon has already released several batches of documents: one of the most recent includes the report of several federal agents who saw a matte black triangular object, with no sound and no exhaust, climb above a ridgeline, hover, and then fly off at fighter-jet speed. And reports keep growing in number all over the world.

KEY LINKS
W26 website: https://www.w26.it
The 33 Custodians: https://www.w26.it/convivium/
Interview calendar with Roberto Pinotti: https://www.w26.it/press/
Crowdfunding campaign: https://www.campagnacrowdfunding.com/c/w26

Yet every new report remains isolated. The problem does not concern only today's data, but also those of the past. Almost eighty years of cases, photographs, films and testimonies are scattered across government archives, associations and private collections, and many private archives risk disappearing along with the people who built them. What is missing is a single, independent place, open to everyone, where these data are brought together and studied with scientific criteria.

This is why W26 The Global Disclosure Project is born: an independent international body, owned by no government, that brings together the most representative researchers, scientists and scholars in the field.

WHAT W26 DOES

1. It saves and digitises the world's private archives. Documents, photographs, films and long-unobtainable books held by individuals and associations are secured, digitised and made public on w26.it, starting with Roberto Pinotti's archive.

1. It builds one shared world database. One scientific scheme for the cases of the past and for every new sighting as it comes in, with open software and a public interface for researchers and associations.

1. It brings a real disclosure from the ground up. All the information, images, videos and documents on a single public timeline, from prehistory to today, and a documentary film with the Custodians. Disclosure will not arrive as a concession from governments: it has to be built by the people.

1. It founds independent research centres with branches in every country. Two Mother Centres with laboratories, observatories and conference halls, and national task forces equipped with instruments in every country of the network.

WHO IS BEHIND W26

The project was created by 82-year-old Roberto Pinotti, sociologist, aerospace journalist and former SETI consultant, who founded CUN, the Centro Ufologico Nazionale, in 1967 and, in 2021, ICER, The International Coalition for Extraterrestrial Research, which brings together researchers from 27 countries. He has published 72 books in 7 languages over sixty years of documented research.

The Board of Custodians (Consilium Custodum) gathers 33 internationally renowned figures, appointed for life to a limited number of non-renewable posts. The Custodians have full access to the archives, the global database and the research centres, and act as their guardians. Among them:

- Avi Loeb, Frank B. Baird Jr. Professor of Science, Harvard University; Chair of the UAP Science Council; Director of the Galileo Project (United States)
- Christopher Mellon, former U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Intelligence; Chairman of the Board of the Disclosure Foundation (United States)
- Whitley Strieber, Author of the international bestseller "Communion" (United States)
- Javier Sierra, International bestselling writer and journalist, published in 45 countries (Spain)
- Jean-Jacques Velasco, Former head of GEPAN/SEPRA, France's official UAP office (France)
- Eric W. Davis, Astrophysicist, EarthTech International (United States)
- Erling Strand, Co-founder, Project Hessdalen (Norway)
- Yan Jin, Vice President of the World Chinese Space Sciences Association and ICER representative for China (China)

Besides the 33 Custodians, another 52 people collaborate on the project. Custodians and collaborators come from 30 countries on every continent. W26 crosses cultural, political and religious barriers: citizens of every country coming together to look for the truth, to ask the question of all questions, and to ask it knowing that everything we see as difference between peoples and cultures, in the face of that question, is insignificant.

> I am 82 years old and I have dedicated my whole life to UFO research,
> together with many of the researchers and scientists who are with me today in the W26 project.
>
> We know very well that many private archives risk disappearing along with their owners,
> as has already happened in the past.
>
> From the safeguarding of these archives, a far more ambitious project was born:
> to unite world ufology, to create a great shared archive
> and a worldwide database built on scientific criteria
> and, as a result, to give life to a disclosure from the ground up
> which, we are certain, will bring several surprises to the public.

> With one year of fundraising, we expect to raise enough funds
> to create two independent research centres, with laboratories and observatories,
> and task forces in every country.
>
> Today, 30 countries on every continent are involved.
>
> This is a great handover from my generation to the younger ones.
>
> Become a founder of this project at https://www.campagnacrowdfunding.com/c/w26

Roberto Pinotti

HOW IT IS FUNDED

W26 is funded through an international crowdfunding campaign on Campagna Crowdfunding, open from today for 365 days:
https://www.campagnacrowdfunding.com/c/w26

The goal is €1,000,000, divided into four modules carried out in order as the funds come in. The next module starts when the previous one is funded.
- the world's archives, 11% (€110,000);
- one unified database, 16% (€160,000);
- reasoned disclosure, 14% (€140,000);
- the two Mother Centres and the national task forces, 59% (€590,000).

If the campaign goes beyond the goal, the four modules grow in the same proportions. Whatever the total, every promised reward is delivered. The full breakdown is at https://www.w26.it/funds/

W26 adopts the reward-based model: supporters receive a tangible sign of belonging to the project. The rewards form a ladder, and each level includes everything below it. They start at €30, W26 Founder Signal, with your name in Record Zero on w26.it, and go up to W26 Founder President, €9,000, limited to 26 seats, with an entire archive carrying your name and your name in the founding acts of the Foundation. Stand-alone rewards include the book "W26, The Global Disclosure Project" (€25) and a ticket to the online World Conference of April 2027. The full list is on the campaign page.

The campaign follows the "Keep it All" model: the funds go to the Committee's account as they are raised, even if the goal is not reached. Payments are made by card and handled by Stripe.

Campaign goal: €1,000,000
Campaign closes: 19 November 2027

TRANSPARENCY (visit: https://www.w26.it/funds/)

W26 is run by a non-profit Committee established under articles 39-42 of the Italian Civil Code and chaired by Roberto Pinotti. Under that law the funds raised are bound to the declared purpose and cannot be diverted elsewhere. The Committee's treasurer is not a family member of the president, and an independent auditor oversees the accounts. Every three months the Committee publishes on w26.it the state of each module and the use of the funds.

THE BOARD OF CUSTODIANS

In alphabetical order by surname:

- Eamonn Ansbro, Astronomer, Kingsland Observatory (Ireland)

- Stephen Bassett, Political activist, Paradigm Research Group (United States)
- Alfredo Benni, ICT Manager and Project Manager, researcher (Italy)
- Eric W. Davis, Astrophysicist, EarthTech International (United States)
- Robert Fleischer, Founder of ExoMagazin.tv (Germany)
- Rodrigo Fuenzalida, Leading figure of Chilean ufology (Chile)
- Sheryl Gottschall, President of UFO Research Queensland (Australia)
- Gerhard Gröschel, Founder of ITUF, the Institute for Technical UFO Research (Germany)
- José Guijarro Triado, UFO researcher, writer and journalist; Director of EspacioMisterio.com (Spain)
- Jann Halexander, Singer-songwriter and actor, founder of UAP Africa (France/Gabon)
- Gary Heseltine, Editor of UFO Truth Magazine (United Kingdom)
- Dave Hodrien, Chairman and Lead Investigator for Birmingham UFO Group (United Kingdom)
- Yan Jin, Vice President of the World Chinese Space Sciences Association and ICER representative for China (China)
- Avi Loeb, Frank B. Baird Jr. Professor of Science, Harvard University; Chair of the UAP Science Council; Director of the Galileo Project (United States)
- Philip Mantle, Author and publisher, Flying Disk Press (United Kingdom)
- Christopher Mellon, Chairman of the Board of the Disclosure Foundation; former U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Intelligence (United States)
- Francisco Mourão Corrêa, Researcher at CTEC, Fernando Pessoa University; Founder of ICER; Coordinator of STELLAR; Director at SUAPS (Portugal)
- Tim Murithi, Professor of African Studies, University of the Free State and Stellenbosch University; South African representative to ICER (South Africa)
- Fred Pallesen, Project Hessdalen (Norway)
- Andrea Pérez Simondini, Continental Director for South America of ICER, Director of CEFORA, the Argentine Commission for the Study of the UFO Phenomenon, and Director and Curator of the UFO Museum in Victoria, Entre Ríos (Argentina)
- Giorgio Piacenza, Sociologist and ufologist (Peru)
- Roberto Pinotti, Founder of CUN, Centro Ufologico Nazionale; Founder of ICER, The International Coalition for Extraterrestrial Research (Italy)
- Donald Schmitt, CUFOS investigator, member of the Board of the Roswell Museum and best-selling author (United States)
- Javier Sierra, International bestselling writer and journalist, published in 45 countries (Spain)
- Ananda Sirisena, Sri Lanka President of the Society for Planetary SETI Research (Sri Lanka/United Kingdom)
- Albert So, President of the Hong Kong UFO Club (Hong Kong)
- Roger Stankovic, Former neuroscientist at the University of Sydney, National Director of MUFON Australia & New Zealand (Australia)
- Erling Strand, Co-founder, Project Hessdalen (Norway)
- Whitley Strieber, Author of the international bestseller "Communion" (United States)
- Clas Svahn, Chairman for Archives for the Unexplained and international director for UFO-Sweden (Sweden)

- Thiago Ticchetti, Ufologist, Editor of Revista Fenômeno OVNI magazine and National Director of MUFON in Brazil (Brazil)
- Adrian Urzică, Executive Director of ASFAN România (Romania)
- Jean-Jacques Velasco, Former head of GEPAN/SEPRA, France's official UAP office (France)

Together with the College of Legates and the Consulta, made up of supporters of the campaign who take part in the project's consultations, the Board forms the Convivium W26, which speaks through numbered advisory opinions, the Responsa.

ABOUT CAMPAGNA CROWDFUNDING

Campagna Crowdfunding is an Italian reward-based crowdfunding platform, run by Kijo Digital SRLS. It supports project creators in preparing their campaign, from the audience analysis to the copy, the rewards and the images, and in promoting it by email and on social media.
https://www.campagnacrowdfunding.com/en

LINKS

W26 campaign: https://www.campagnacrowdfunding.com/c/w26
W26 website: https://www.w26.it
Where the money goes: https://www.w26.it/funds/
The Convivium and the Board of Custodians: https://www.w26.it/convivium/
Campagna Crowdfunding: https://www.campagnacrowdfunding.com/en

PRESS CONTACTS

For interview requests and information:
press@campagnacrowdfunding.com
postmaster@robertopinotti.com
w26project@gmail.com

To book an interview with Roberto Pinotti, please visit https://www.w26.it/press/

W26 The Global Disclosure Project
Committee established under articles 39-42 of the Italian Civil Code
Italian tax code 93061690165