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**Davos enjoys appeal of being left in the dark**

By Alan Beattie, FT.com site  
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A lot of delegates at Davos must feel that the sometimes overwhelming frenetic activity around them is leaving them in the dark about what is actually going on.

So it's nice to see that this year, one intriguing option on offer was "Dialogue in the Dark", which made no bones about putting attendees in complete blackness, in this case literal rather than metaphorical.

The activity consists of participants being put into an enclosed room of complete and total darkness, with only white sticks to help them feel their way around, and a team of (actually) blind guides who lead them around.

It is the invention of Andreas Heinecke, a 51-year old German former journalist, who wanted sighted and blind people, at least temporary, to reverse their normal roles.

It then uses a combination of sound, wind machines and temperature changes to evoke everyday environments such as parks or bars.

More than five million visitors have experience Dialogue in the Dark.

For Davos, the exhibition was set up in one of the smarter hotels towards the edge of town. Attendees at one performance yesterday started off with a mix of apprehension and curiosity. Among the oversubscribed queue were more than enthusiastic repeat customers.

"This," one enthused, "is the best thing I have ever done."