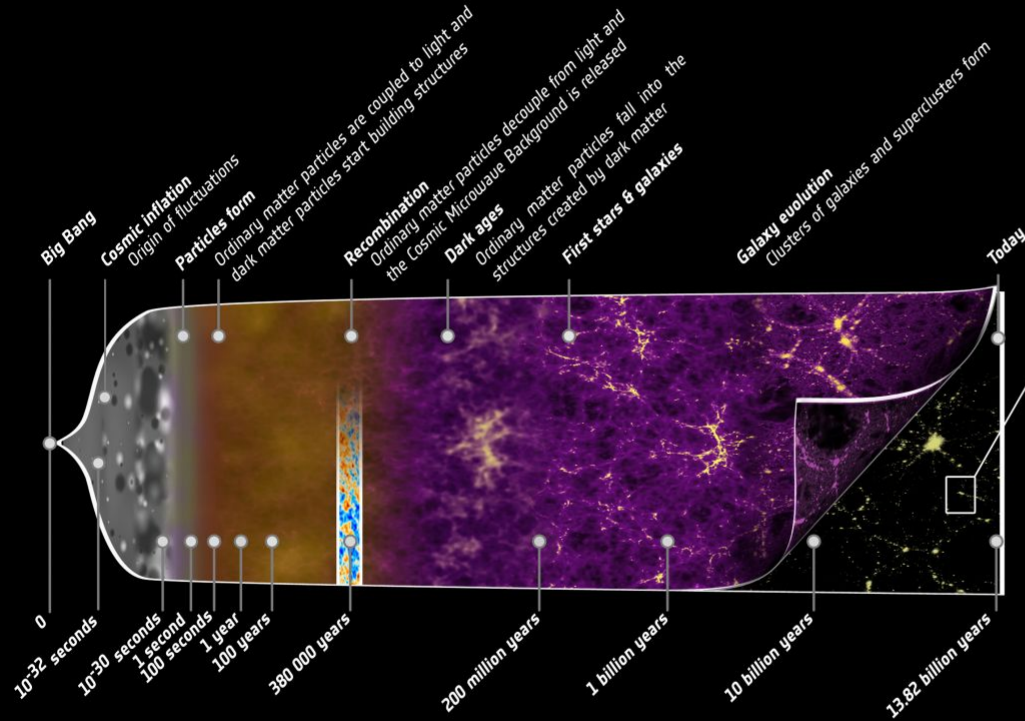


# A BOLD FUTURE FOR ASTROPHYSICS

## INTRODUCTION

240<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE AAS  
PATRICK MCCARTHY, DIRECTOR, NSF'S NOIRLAB  
PASADENA, CA JUNE 2022

# COSMIC TIMELINE & THE BIG QUESTIONS



**Why is there structure in the Universe?**

**What are dark matter and dark energy and how do they shape the universe and its evolution?**

**How did dark matter, gas and black holes co-evolve into today's galaxies?**

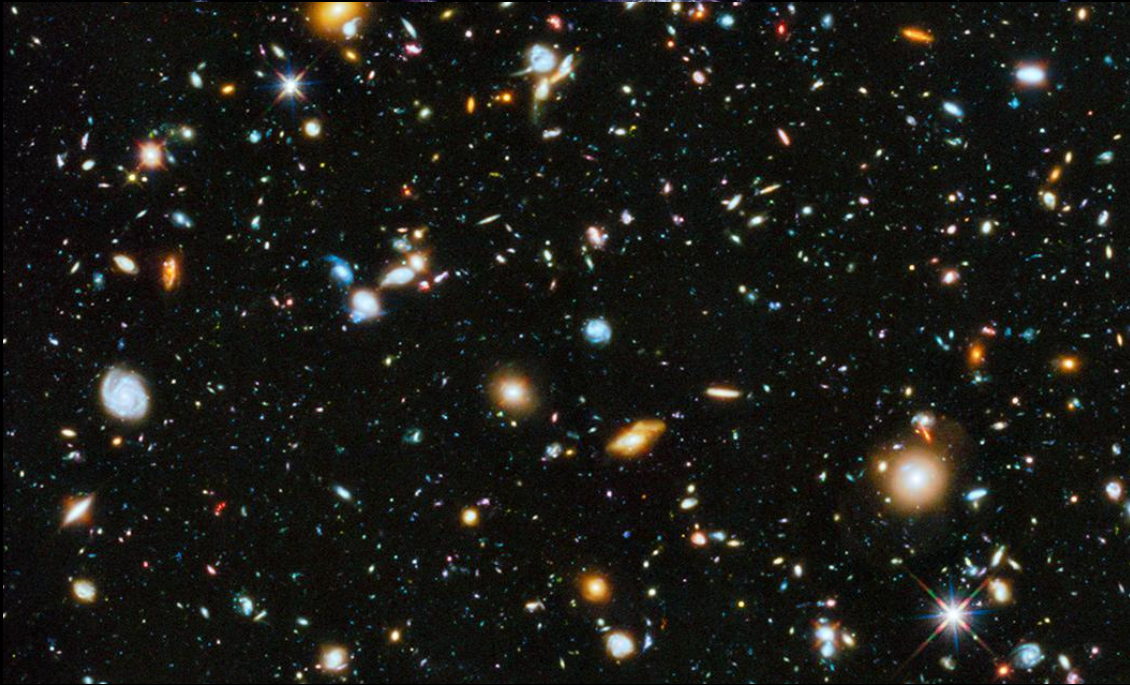
**When, where and how did biology emerge in planetary systems?**



## The Dark Ages and Cosmic Dawn

*How were the seeds of  
today's universe laid  
down?*

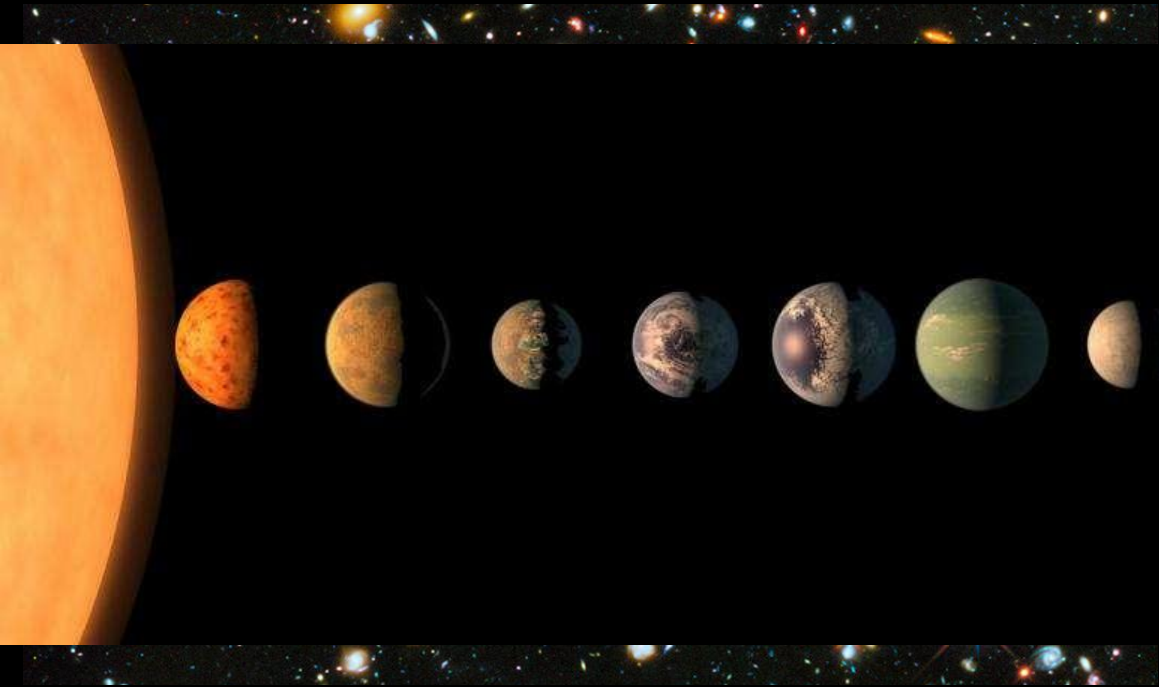
*What lit up the Universe,  
and when?*



## From Cosmic Dawn to Cosmic Noon

*How do black holes, star  
formation and  
supernovae regulate  
galaxy growth?*





## Exoplanets and the Search for Life Elsewhere

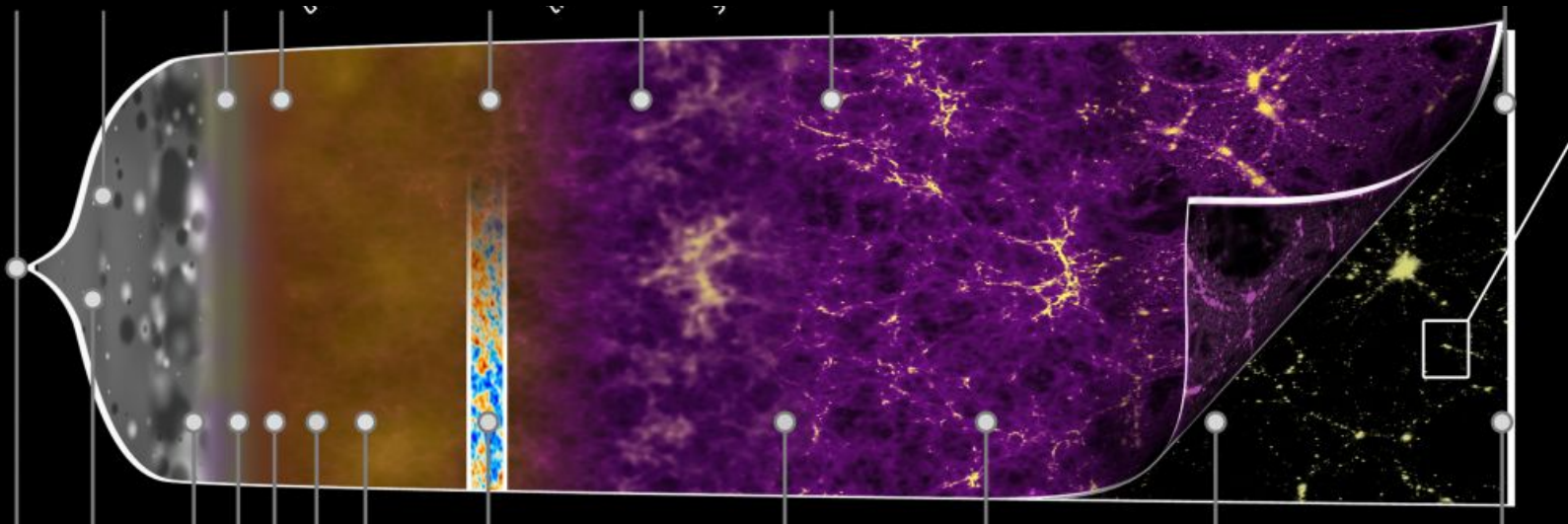
*What drives the diversity  
of planetary systems?*

*What conditions are  
necessary and sufficient  
for life?*

CMBS4

US ELTP  
COSMIC EXPLORER  
JWST

Rubin  
Roman



SKA

ALMA

ngVLA

CHANDRA

SWIFT

DESI

MSE

MegaMapper

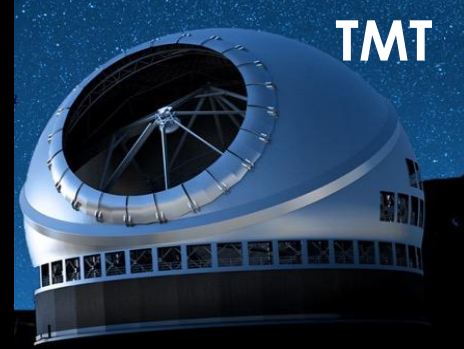
# Tools for Discovery



ngVLA

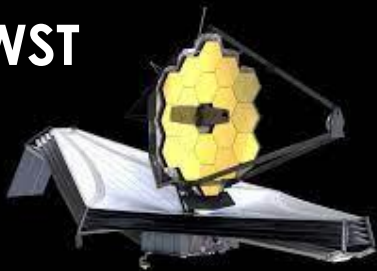


Cosmic  
Explorer



TMT

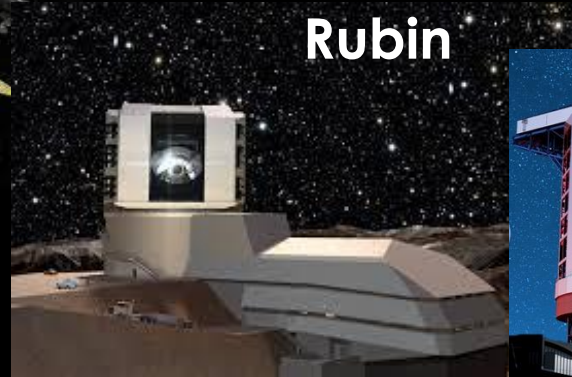
JWST



Roman



Rubin



GMT



CMBS4



GROUND-BASED ASTRONOMY  
A TEN-YEAR PROGRAM

1964 (original 1964, new appearance)

Astronomy and  
Astrophysics  
for the 1970's

VOLUME I Report of the  
Astronomy Survey Committee

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

KPNO

CTIO  
VLA

VLBA  
Chandra

Astronomy  
and Astrophysics  
for the 1980's

VOLUME II  
Report of the  
Astronomy Survey Committee

THE DECADE OF DISCOVERY IN

ASTRONOMY  
AND  
ASTROPHYSICS

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

ALMA  
Gemini  
Spitzer

Astronomy and Astrophysics  
in the New Millennium

GSMT  
JWST

How to  
Prioritize?

Rubin  
Roman

New Worlds,  
New Horizons  
in Astronomy and Astrophysics

Pathways to Discovery in  
Astronomy and Astrophysics  
for the 2020's

US ELT  
CMBS4  
ngVLA

# WHAT DO WE NEED FOR SUCCESS?

## **Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration**

*Time domain systems, software, networks*

*Cross-referenced survey data sets*

*Connected data archives*

## **Technology**

*Focal plane instruments*

*Controls, signal processing, algorithms, real-time computing*

## **Support for Science Users**

*End-to-end planning tools*

*Pipelines that produce science-ready data*

## **Prepared Diverse Professional Workforce**

*Engineering disciplines*

*Scientists, Systems Engineers, Project Managers*

**A strategy for Supporting All of the Above!**



# HOW CAN WE HELP NSF?

- **Advocate for science!**
  - *Within your community*
  - *Within your university*
  - *With your local congressional delegation*
- **Advocate for growing NSF's top-line budget**
  - *A healthy NSF is good for the nation*
- **Advocate for continued US leadership in science and technology**
- **Share the excitement of astronomy widely!**

# TODAY'S PROGRAM

US ELT Program  
CMB S4  
ngVLA  
Cosmic Explorer

Rebecca Bernstein  
Abigail Crites  
Tony Beasley  
Matthew Evans

Panel Q&A

Bob Kirshner et al.

# US-ELTP

*Rebecca Bernstein*

Member of the Scientific Staff  
at Observatories of the Carnegie Institution for Science  
and Chief Scientist  
at the Giant Magellan Telescope Organization



# U.S. EXTREMELY **LARGE** **TELESCOPE** PROGRAM

## Leadership in O/IR Capabilities for the Next Generation of Scientists

---

**Rebecca Bernstein** for the US-ELT Program

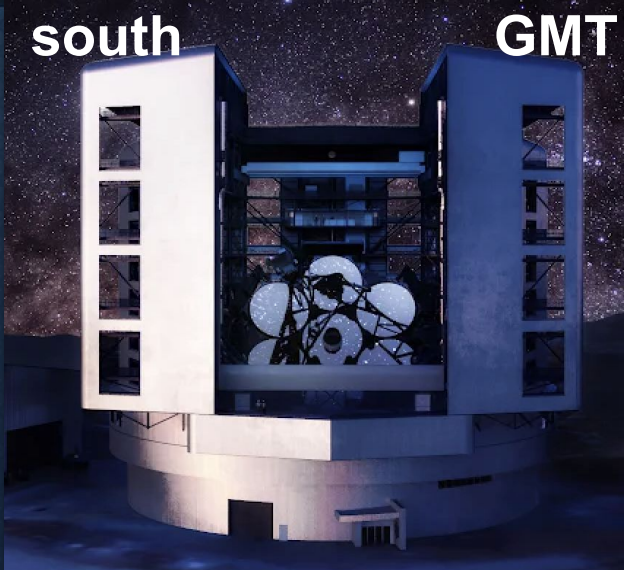
Chief Scientist, GMTO



# The next generation of O/IR telescopes: an world-leading system for US astronomers



**south** **GMT**



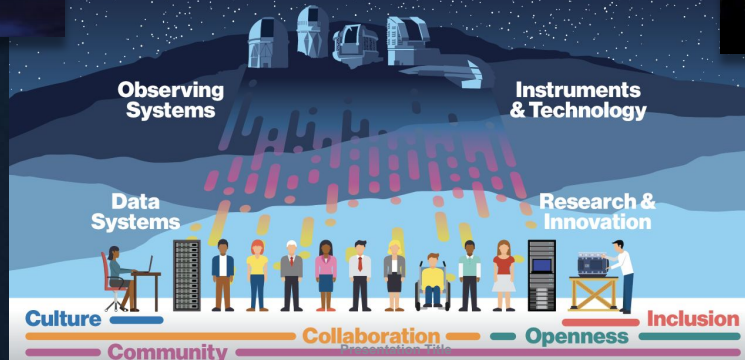
Revolutionary capabilities:  
Sensitivity  
Resolution  
State-of-the-art instruments

Data archives

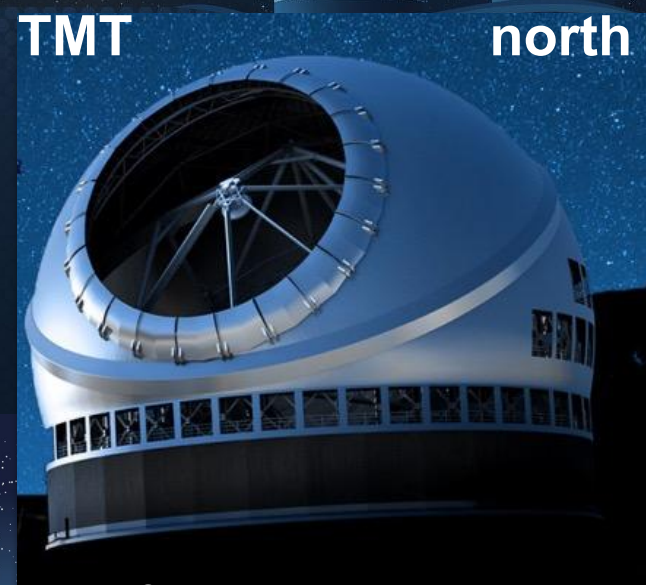
Full sky coverage

Author/Presenter Name

**NOIRLab**



**TMT** **north**



Community-wide access  
>25% of both facilities  
Key Science Programs  
Individual PI Programs

User support

Data products & platforms



# Greatest leap in discovery potential since Galileo:

## Angular Resolution ( $\sim \lambda/D$ )

$$\theta_j \approx 0.01 \text{ asec}$$

K-band Strehl  $\sim 80\%$

Astrometric stability  $\sim 0.01 \text{ mas}$  (rms in 1 hr)

10x better than HST

4x better than JWST (1-10 $\mu\text{m}$ )

## Sensitivity ( $\sim D^2/\theta^2$ )

14-200x better than 8m telescopes

## Powerful instruments:

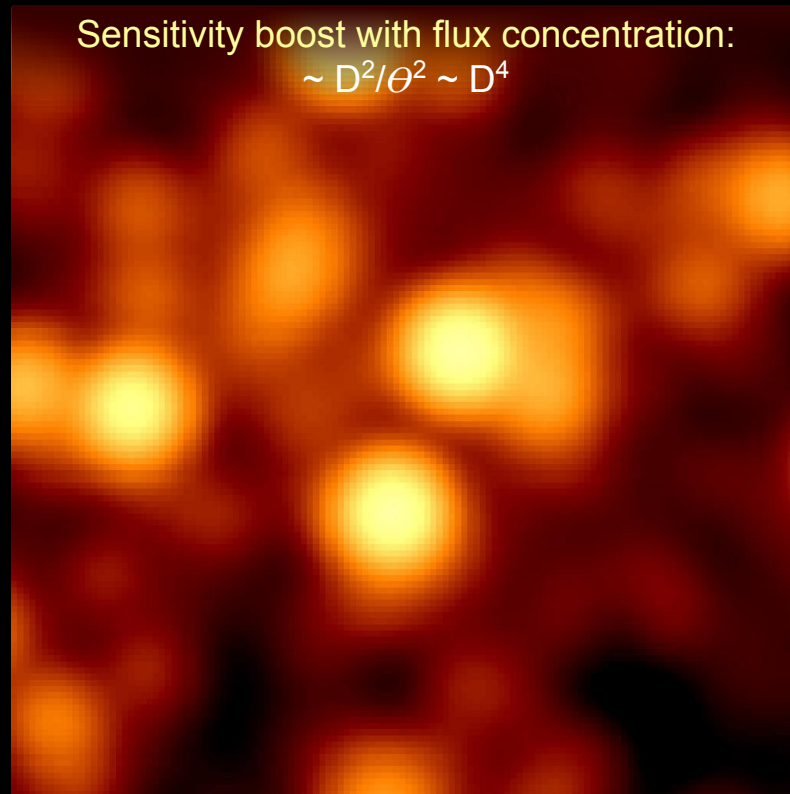
Wide field (20 arcmin), Wide band (0.3-10 $\mu\text{m}$ ),

State-of-the-art technology & techniques

Multiple generations

Sensitivity boost with flux concentration:

$$\sim D^2/\theta^2 \sim D^4$$



# Capabilities to transform our understanding of the universe

## Worlds and Suns



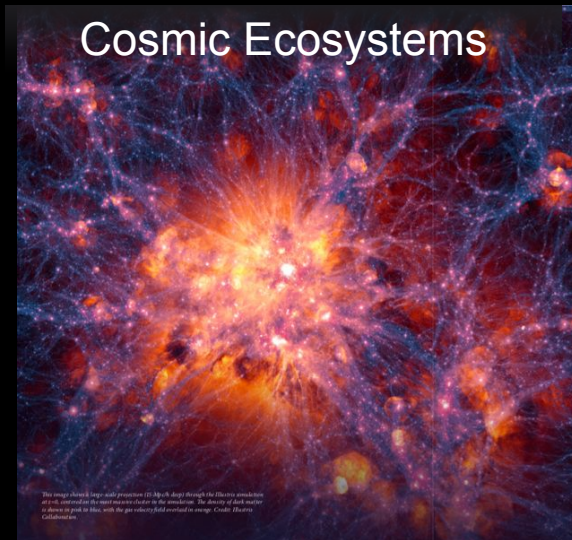
- Exoplanet formation and the statistics of habitable worlds.
- Search for life beyond the solar system

## New Messengers, New Physics



- Gravitational wave events & relics
- The composition (dark matter) and physics (dark energy) of the Universe

## Cosmic Ecosystems



- The physics and chemistry of the first galaxies
- Black holes and galaxy evolution

# Capabilities to transform our understanding of the universe

## Worlds and Suns

## New Messengers, New Physics

## Cosmic Ecosystems

“...the survey’s priority for a frontier ground-based observatory...

... will address nearly every important science question across all three priority science areas.

Both projects are essential for keeping the U.S. community’s global scientific leadership.”

— Astro2020

- Exoplanet formation and the statistics of habitable worlds.
- Search for life beyond the solar system

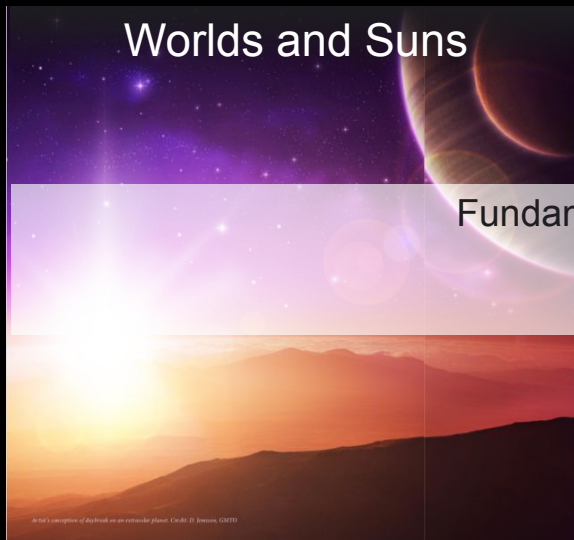
- Gravitational wave events & relics
- The composition (dark matter) and physics (dark energy) of the Universe

- The physics and chemistry of the first galaxies
- Black holes and galaxy evolution



# Capabilities to transform our understanding of the universe

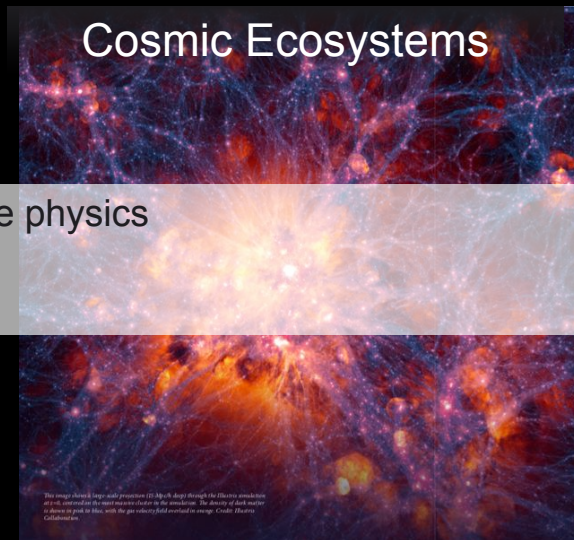
## Worlds and Suns



## New Messengers, New Physics



## Cosmic Ecosystems



Fundamental physics, solid state physics, particle physics  
chemistry, geology, astrobiology,  
our place in the universe

- Exoplanet formation and the statistics of habitable worlds.
- Search for life beyond the solar system

- Gravitational wave events & relics
- The composition (dark matter) and physics (dark energy) of the Universe

- The physics and chemistry of the first galaxies
- Black holes and galaxy evolution

# Capabilities to transform our understanding of the universe

## Worlds and Suns

## New Messengers, New Physics

## Cosmic Ecosystems

"For the U.S. to remain a global leader in innovation, America's researchers must have access to scientific facilities that will astonish the world – tools that let them see further, faster, and deeper."

— National Science Board, Vision 2030 report.

- Exoplanet formation and the statistics of habitable worlds.
- Search for life beyond the solar system

- Gravitational wave events & relics
- The composition (dark matter) and physics (dark energy) of the Universe

- The physics and chemistry of the first galaxies
- Black holes and galaxy evolution



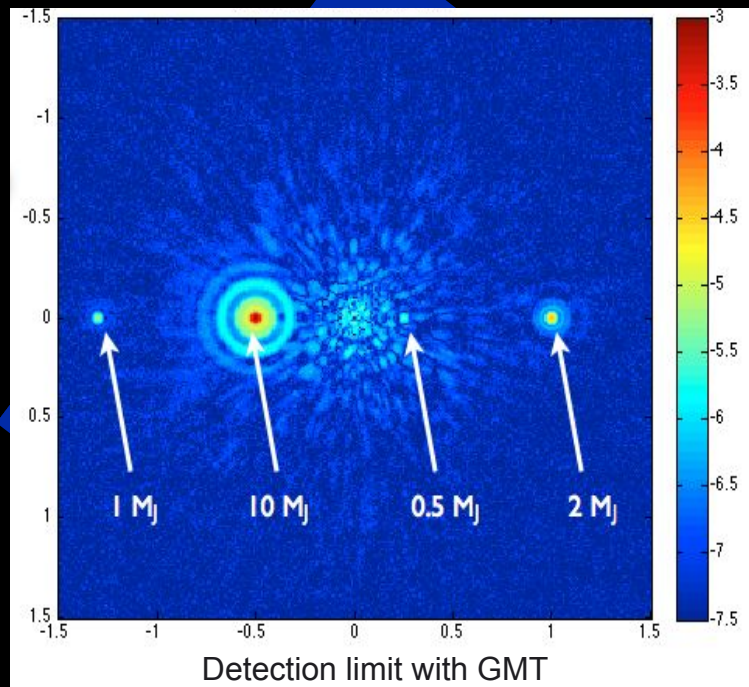
# Capabilities to transform our understanding of the universe

Solar system: 30 km at Jupiter (5 AU)



Habitable zones:

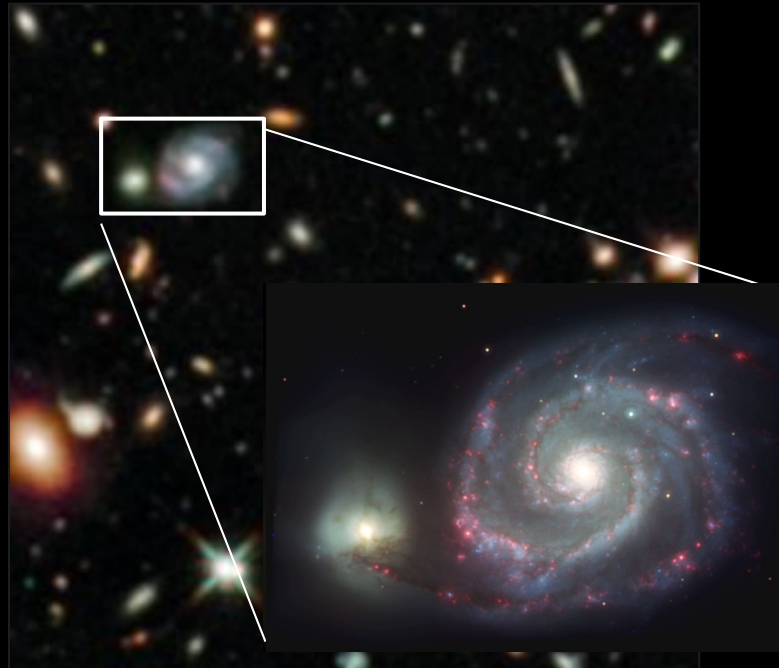
1 AU at 100 pc



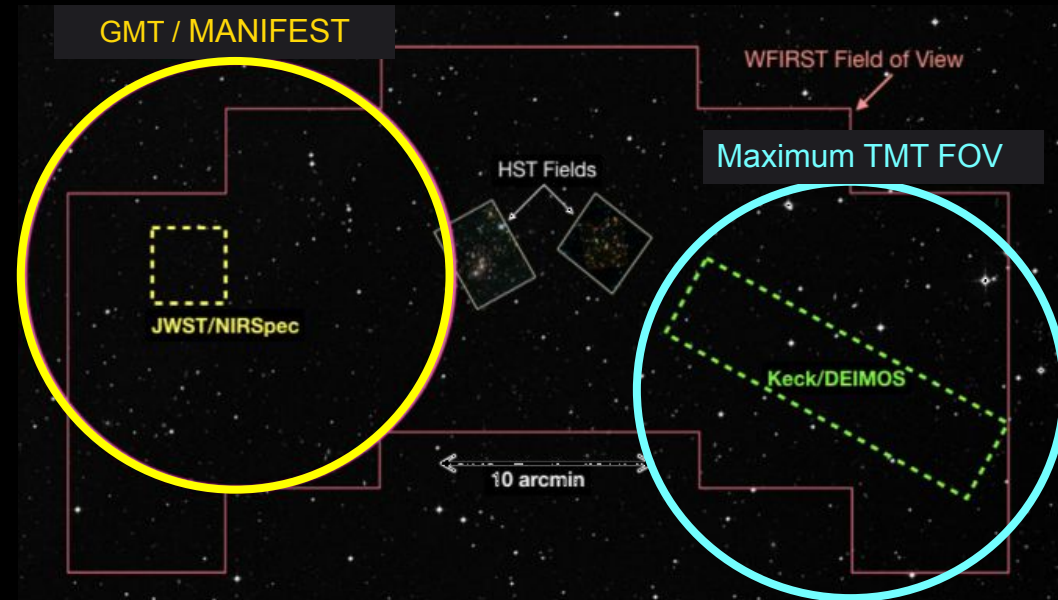
# Capabilities to transform our understanding of the universe



Star forming regions: 60 pc at  $z=2.5$



Multiplexing for  $\sim 100$ 's of ultrafaint sources



HST Frontier Field Images – NASA, ESA, and J. Lotz, M. Mountain, A. Koekemoer, and the HFF Team (STScI);  
DSS – STScI/NASA; Z. Levay (STScI)

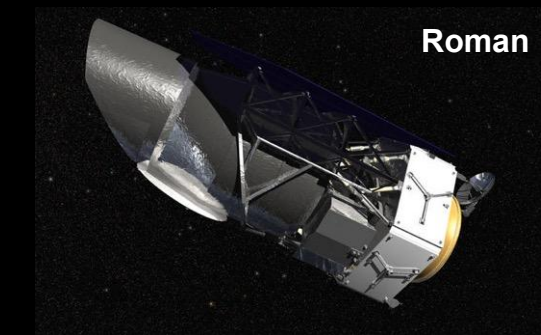
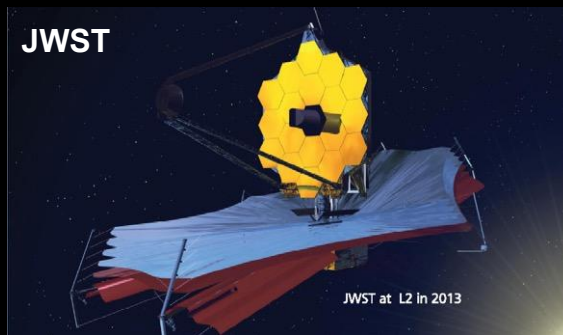
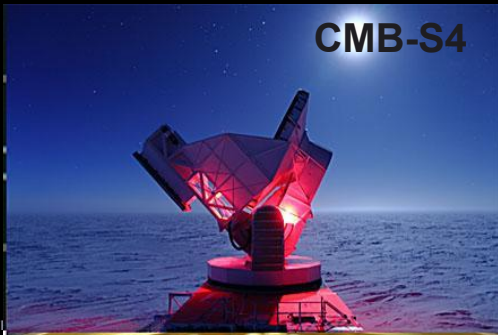
Colless et al. (2018)

# Amplifying the impact of current and future investments:



High-resolution spectroscopy (0.3-10 $\mu$ m) for physics, chemistry, and astrobiology.

Wide-field, high sensitivity spectroscopy for efficient survey science.





# Amplifying the impact of current and future investments:

*chemistry and dynamical data =*

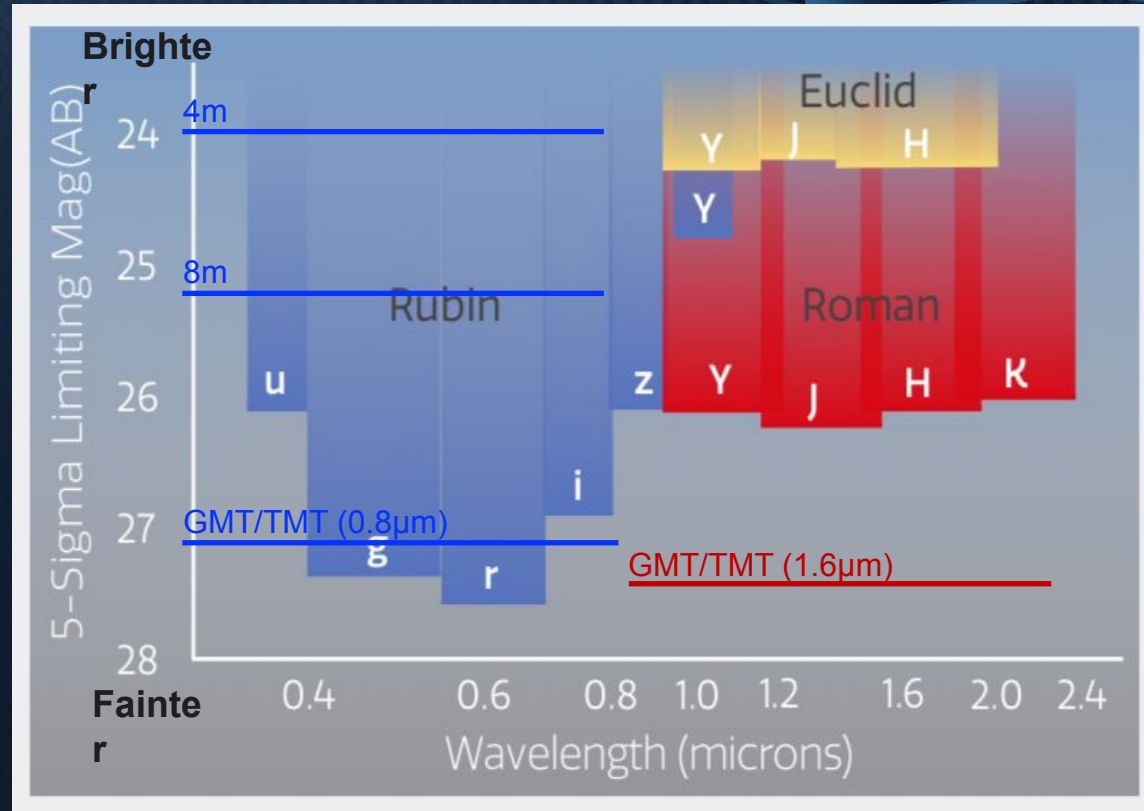
The assembly history of galaxies over cosmic time.

The conversion of gas (Hydrogen) into stars the elements around us.

Constraints on dark matter and dark energy

The physics of black holes and their co-evolution with galaxies

*...And answer to questions we haven't yet begun to ask!*



Lines=5-sigma detection limits (20 hr). 8 hr integration limits are 1 mag brighter.

# The unique power of a bi-hemispheric system:

## Full sky access

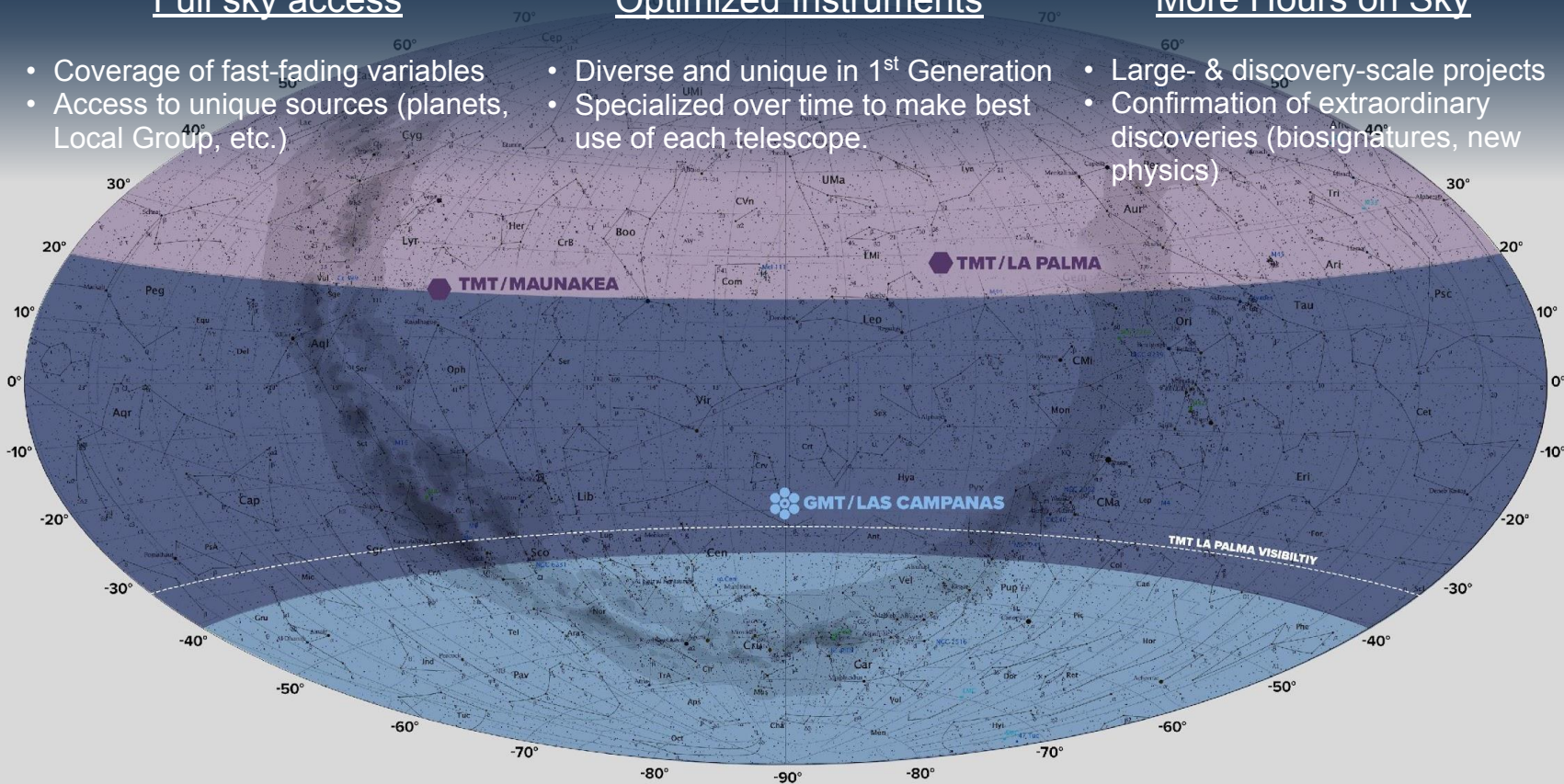
- Coverage of fast-fading variables
- Access to unique sources (planets, Local Group, etc.)

## Optimized Instruments

- Diverse and unique in 1<sup>st</sup> Generation
- Specialized over time to make best use of each telescope.

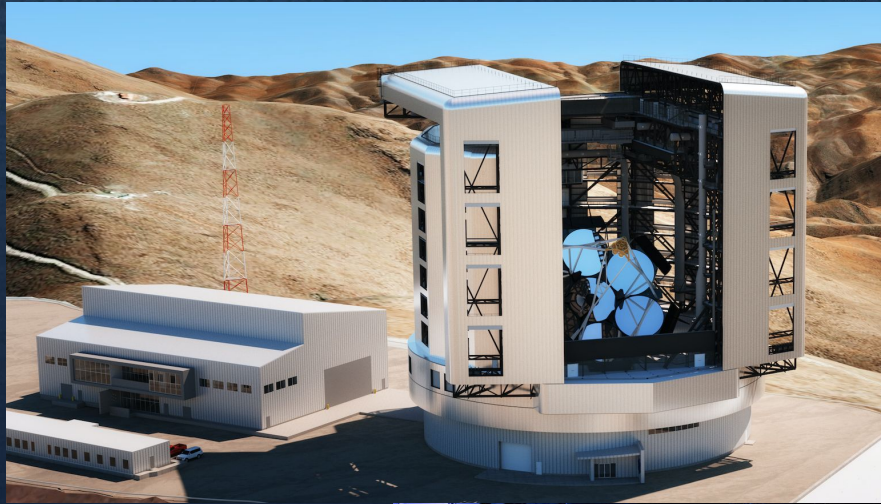
## More Hours on Sky

- Large- & discovery-scale projects
- Confirmation of extraordinary discoveries (biosignatures, new physics)





# GMT status – Majority in final design or construction



M1 segments:  
2 completed, 4 in processing, 2 remain to cast





# GMT status – Hard rock excavation and infrastructure completed.



Las Campanas Obs.

## GMT Observatory

Lodging

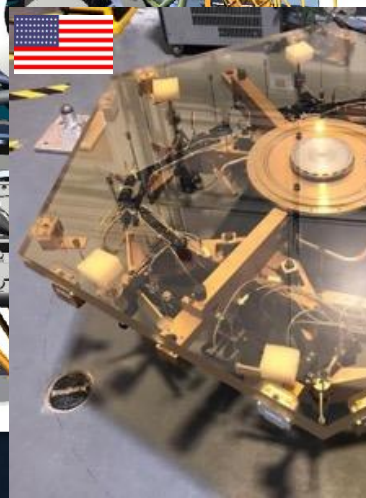
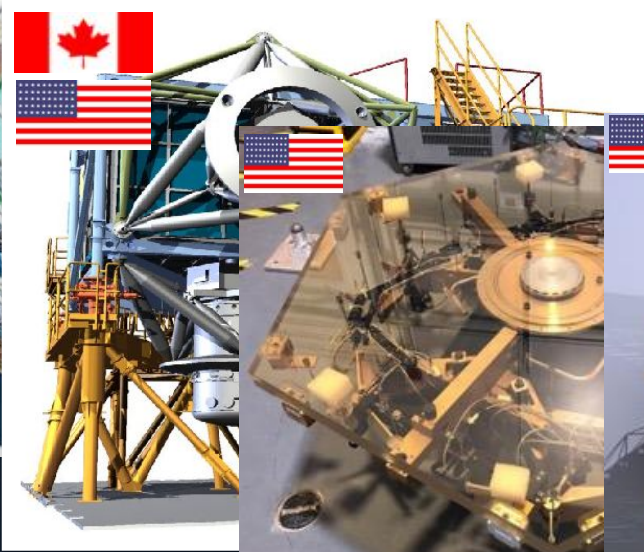
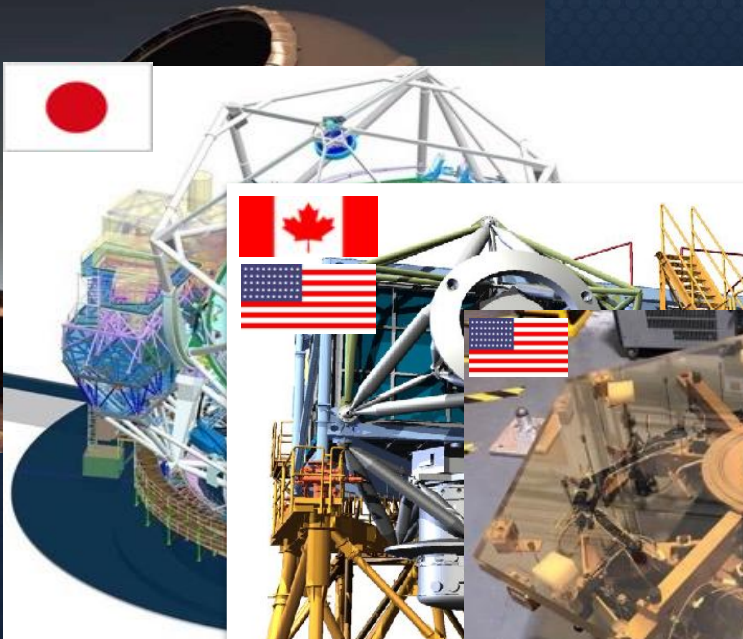
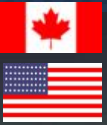
Support  
Site

Summit

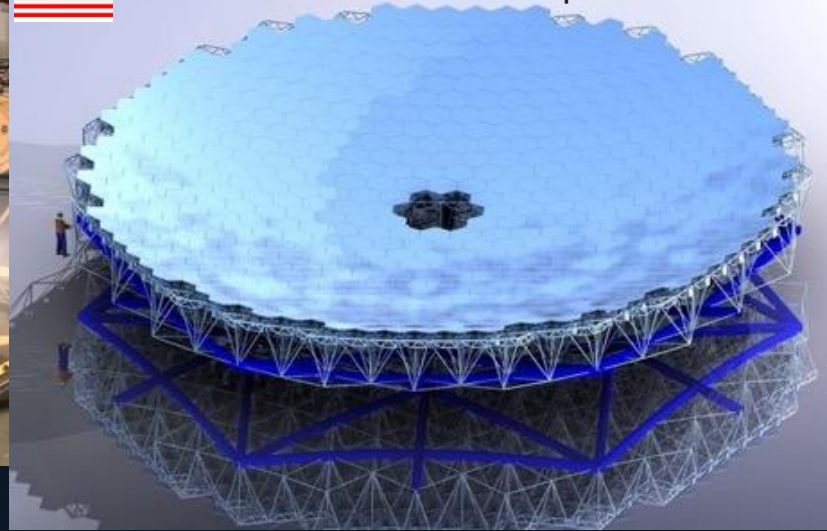




# GMT status – Majority in final design or fabrication

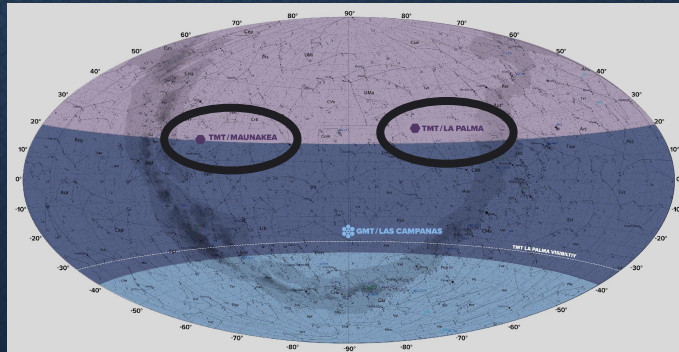


M1 blanks: 2/3 complete



# TMT Status —

Working to build trust and relationships in Hawaii. ORM as alternative.



## Tutors Needed at Hilo High!



Summer Credit Recovery Program (June 6 - July 14)

*The school is requesting help from all staff & students of the Maunakea Observatories, the University of Hawai'i & the Institute for Astronomy!*

*Our Community needs our help!  
(~100 students are struggling to graduate)*

**Date & Time:** 06/06 - 07/14 2022, daily (M-F), 8am-12pm

**Location:** Hilo High School (HHS)

**Target:** 20 students each day

**Request:** 4-5 tutors for each hour every day

**Subject:** Primarily **Math & Science** HHS will provide access to class notes & curriculums.

**Learn more and Sign up [here](#) today!**

HHS teachers will hold a tutorial on June 3 for all volunteers

Supporting local students in their education journey is the most effective & appreciated way to build Community Astronomy!

**'A'ohē hana nui ke alu 'ia!  
No work is too big when done by all!**





A public-private partnership for a world-leading, inclusive system of  
OIR telescopes for the future of US scientist





# CMB-S4

*Abigail Crites*

Assistant Professor at Cornell University  
and Member of the Executive Team, CMB-S4



# CMB-S4

Abigail Crites  
For the CMB-S4 Collaboration  
Assistant Professor at Cornell University  
and Member of the Executive Team, CMB-S4

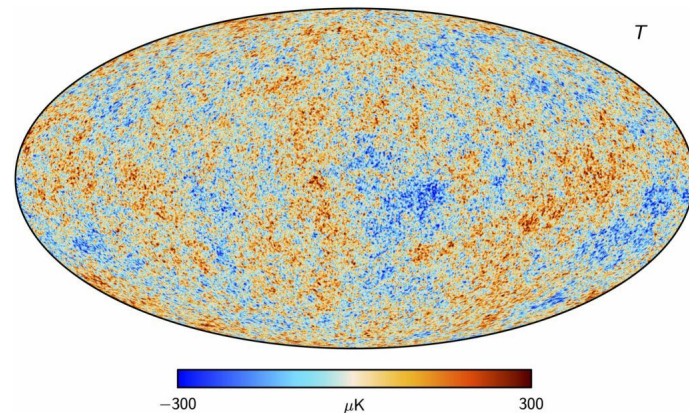
# What is CMB-S4?

CMB-S4 is the next-generation ground-based cosmic microwave background experiment.

CMB-S4 consists of 21 telescopes at the South Pole and in the Chilean Atacama desert

It will survey the sky with over 500,000 cryogenically-cooled superconducting detectors for 7 years, CMB-S4 will deliver transformative discoveries in fundamental physics, cosmology, astrophysics, and astronomy.

CMB-S4 is supported by the Department of Energy Office of Science and the National Science Foundation.



# Where can I get more information?

Snowmass 2021 CMB-S4 White Paper:

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2203.08024.pdf>

CMB-S4: Forecasting Constraints on  
Primordial Gravitational Waves:

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2008.12619.pdf>

CMB-S4 Science Case, Reference Design,  
and Project Plan:

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/1907.04473.pdf>

CMB-S4 Technology Book, First Edition:

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/1706.02464.pdf>

CMB-S4 Science Book, First Edition:

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/1610.02743.pdf>

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## CMB-S4 Science Case, Reference Design, and Project Plan

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CMB-S4 Collaboration

July 9, 2019

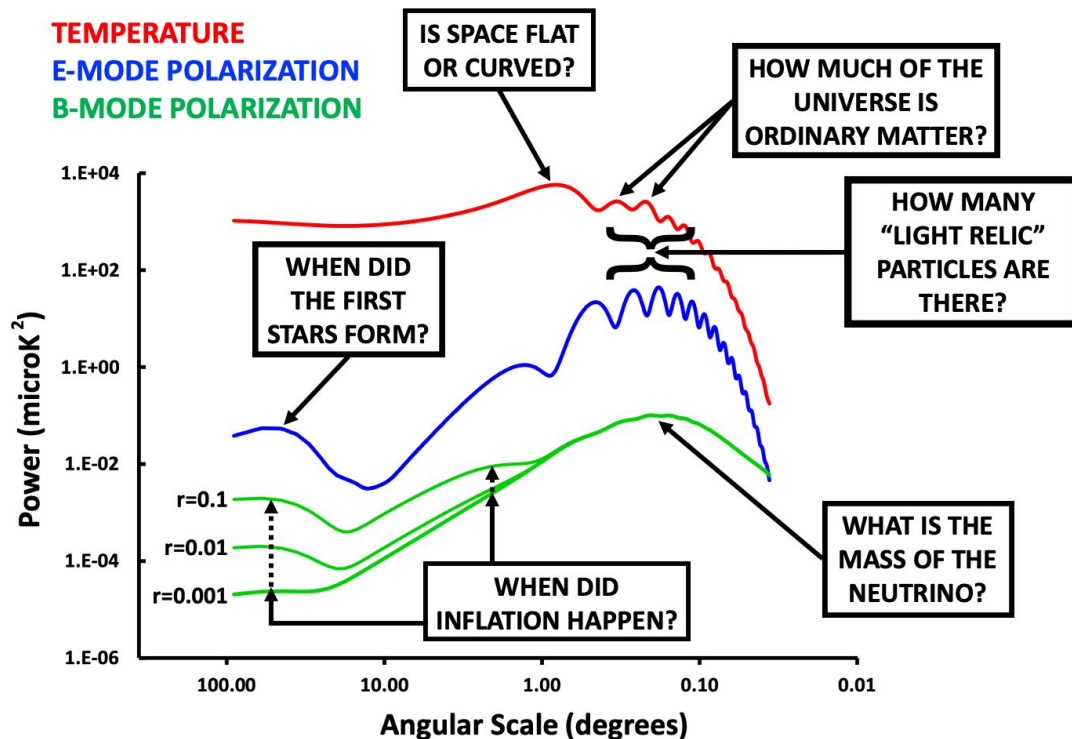
**cmb-s4.org**



# Science From the CMB

Encoded in the weak anisotropy of the CMB intensity and polarization is the story of the origin, evolution, and make up of the Universe.

To extract it we need to measure the anisotropy from angular scales of degrees to arcminutes with exquisite sensitivity and fidelity.



# Why CMB-S4?

CMB-S4 will cross critical thresholds in key cosmological parameters in the search for [primordial gravitational waves](#) and [relic particles](#).

CMB-S4 will provide unique astrophysical information, from the [reionization](#) of the Universe to the role of [baryonic feedback in structure and galaxy formation](#). It will provide a powerful and [unprecedented catalog of high-redshift clusters and galaxies](#), and open up the mm-wave transient universe for [Multi-Messenger Astrophysics](#).

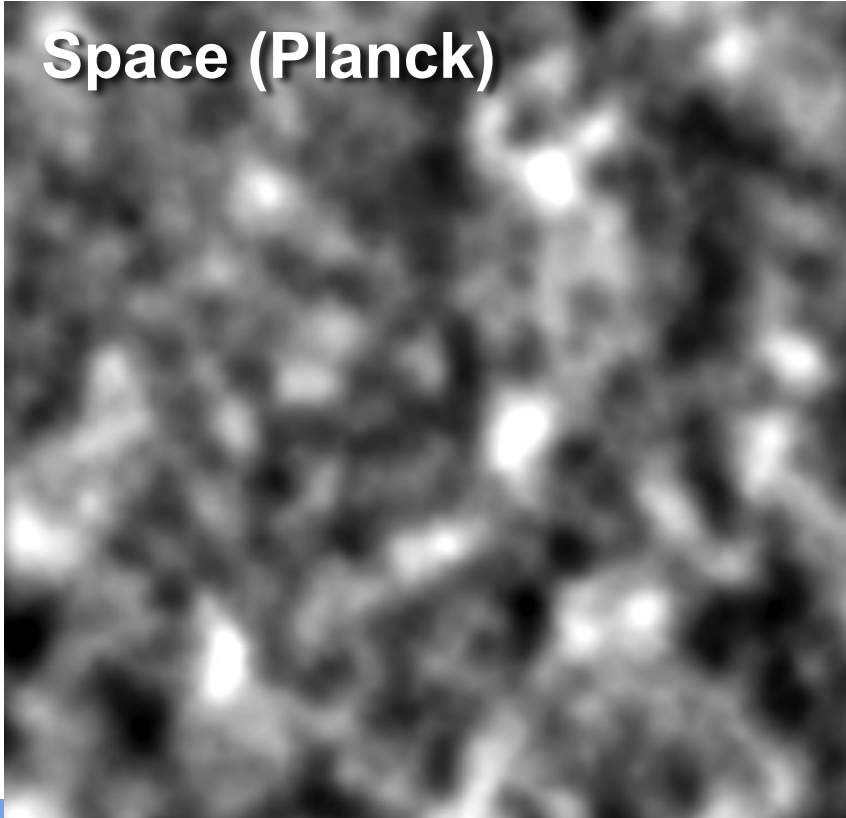
These goals drive the experimental design and [cannot be met with any precursor experiments](#).

CMB-S4 instrument and survey strategy are designed to be an extremely powerful complement to other astronomical surveys—breaking degeneracies and increasing sensitivity—to investigate [neutrino properties](#), [dark energy](#), and [dark matter](#).

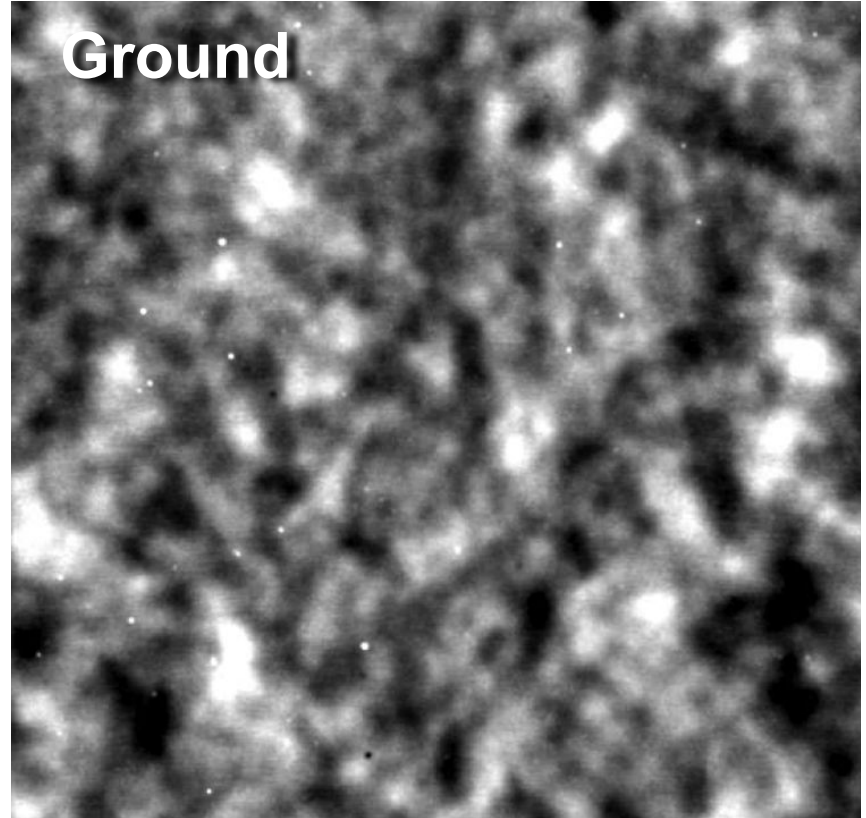
# Why CMB-S4?

Transformational discoveries will come from ground-based telescopes.

**Space (Planck)**



**Ground**

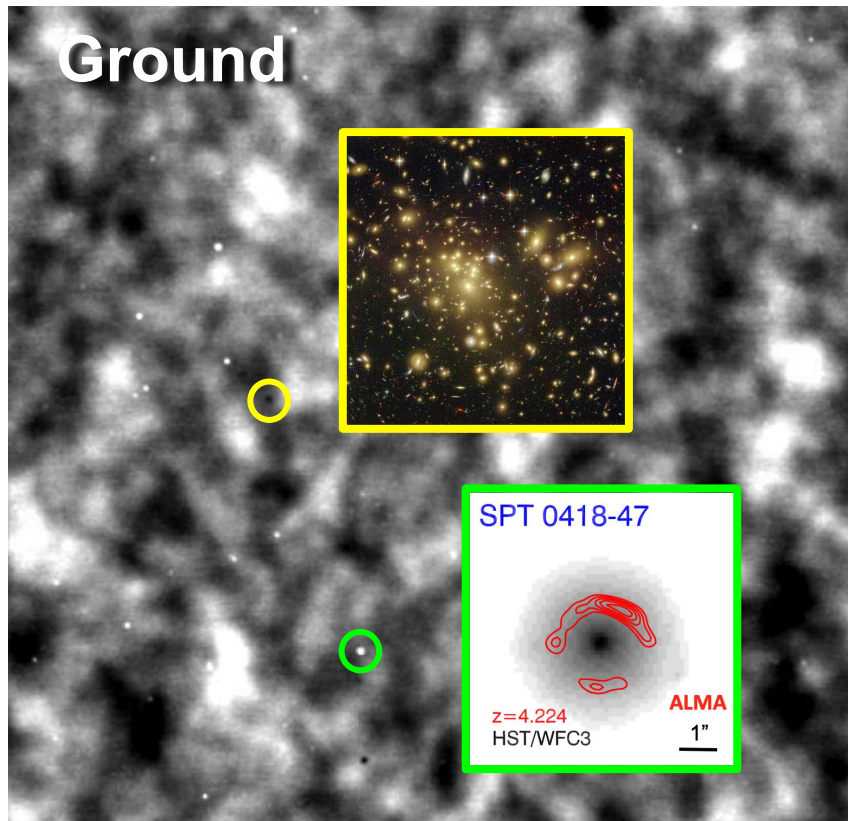


# Why CMB-S4?

Transformational discoveries will come from ground-based telescopes.

CMB-S4 measurements will lead to a wide range of additional science, from CMB lensing mass maps and sources appearing either backlit by the CMB or as mm-wave foregrounds.

- Extragalactic: large scale structure, galaxies, galaxy clusters, GRBs, ...
- Galactic: star forming clouds, dust & synchrotron emission, ...
- Solar system: planet 9, ...
- mm sky surveys provides objects for ALMA, VLA, Gemini, and others to follow up at all  $\lambda$ 's





# CMB-S4 is a Community Effort

CMB-S4 will be enabled with broad participation of the CMB community, including those in the existing CMB experiments (e.g., ACT, BICEP/Keck, CLASS, POLARBEAR/Simons Array, Simons Observatory & SPT), the National Labs and the Astronomical and Particle Physics communities.

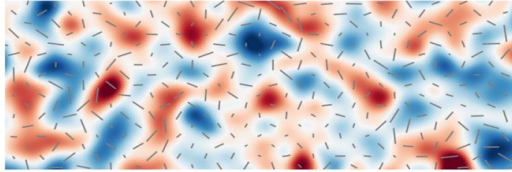
The CMB-S4 Science Collaboration is highly active and engaged with the project

- >350 members
- >110 institutions
- 16 countries
- 22 U.S. States
- 2 major collaboration meetings per year



10th CMB-S4 Workshop, UCSD October 2019  
Next in-person meeting will be August 2022!

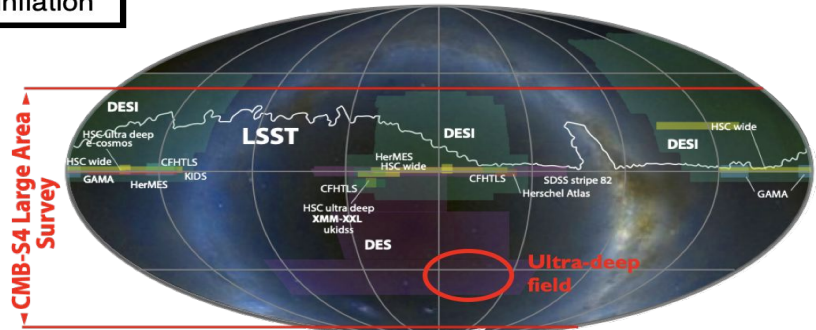
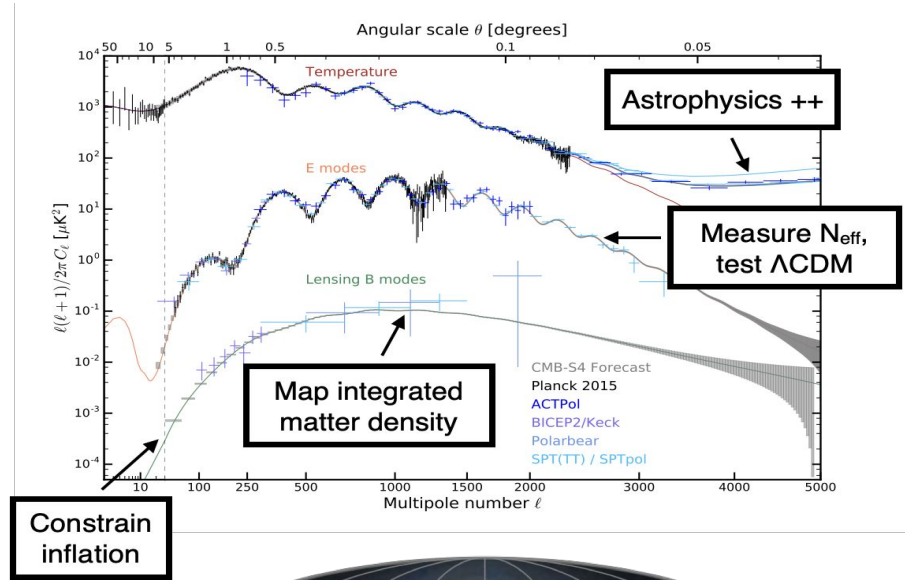
# Science Goals



Simulated B-mode polarization in the CMB ([cmb-s4.org](http://cmb-s4.org))

## Four Broad Science Themes

1. Primordial Gravitational Waves and Inflation
2. The Dark Universe
3. Mapping Matter in the Cosmos
4. The Time-Variable Millimeter-Wave Sky



# Observing Sites

Atacama, Chile CMB (Stage 3)

*Simons Observatory is coming.*

**Simons Array**  
(POLARBEAR 2.5m x 3)

**CLASS**  
(1.5m x 2)

**6m Atacama Cosmology Telescope**

Photo: Debra Kellner

CMB-S4 will conduct **ultra-deep measurements** focused on **small sky area**, and will use **large apertures** for high angular resolution over **ultra-deep and deep-wide fields**.

South Pole CMB (Stage 3)

**NSF Amundsen Scott  
Research Station**

**BICEP3**  
(0.55m)

**10m South Pole  
Telescope**

**BICEP Array**  
(0.55m x 4)

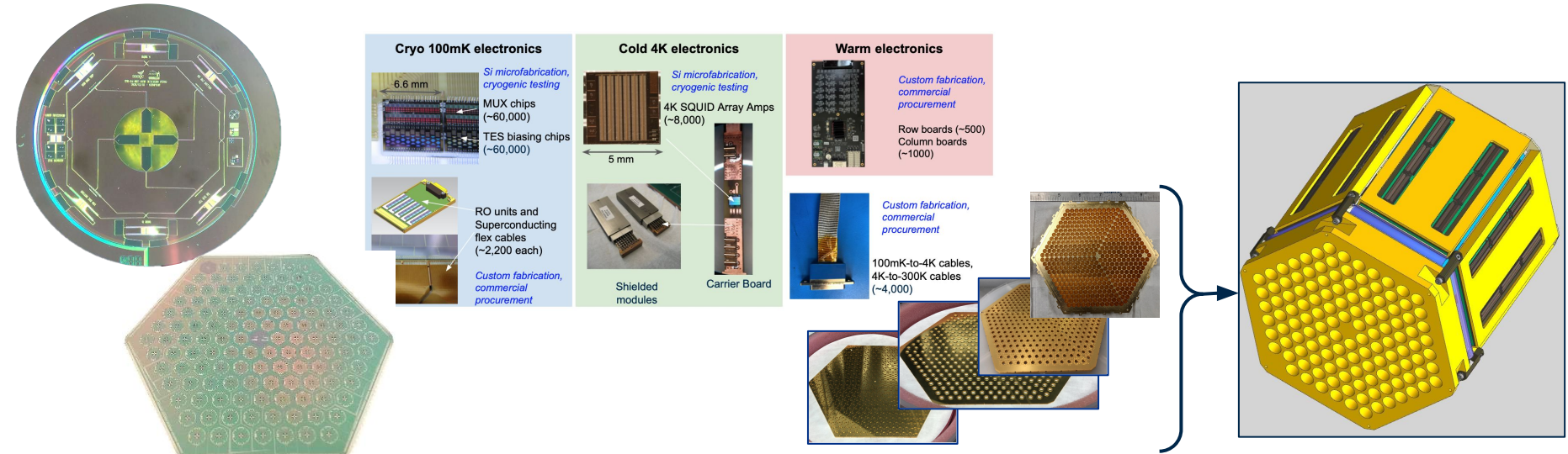
Photo: USAP





# Instrument Design

## Transition Edge Sensors and Readout

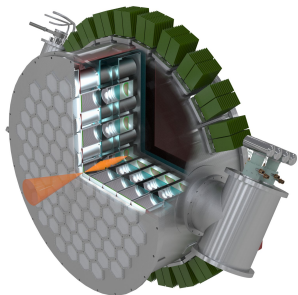


O(500,000) detectors spanning 20 - 300 GHz using multiple telescopes, large and small, at South Pole and Chile, to map deep targeted fields, as well as a large fraction of the sky.

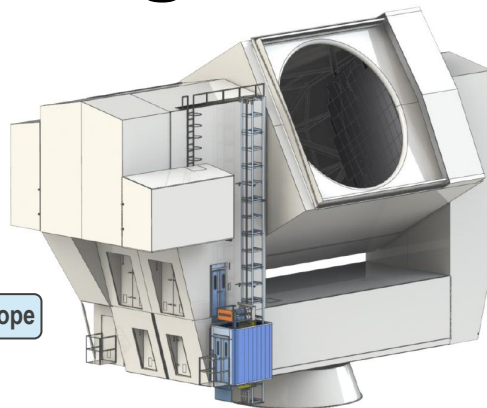
Tenfold increase in sensitivity over Stage 3 experiments, to cross critical science thresholds.



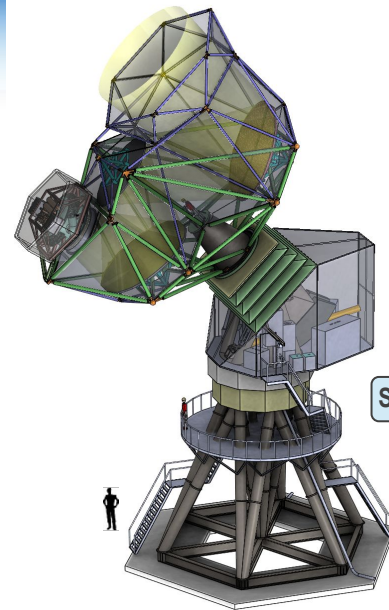
# Instrument Design



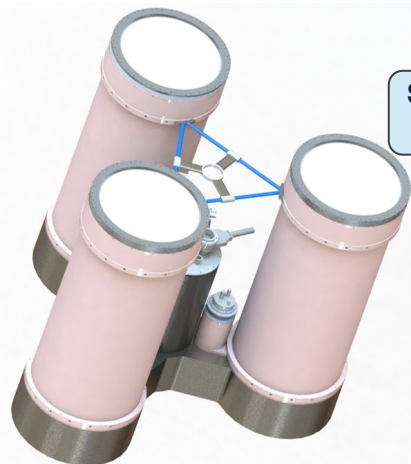
85-Tube LAT Receiver Cryostat



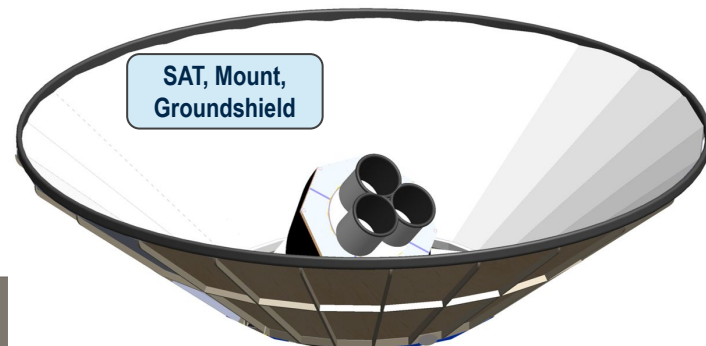
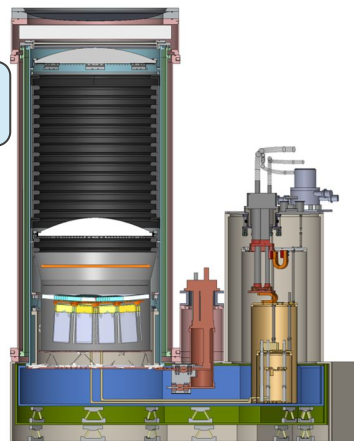
Chile Large Telescope



South Pole Large Telescope



SAT Cryostat System,  
Optics Tubes



SAT, Mount,  
Groundshield

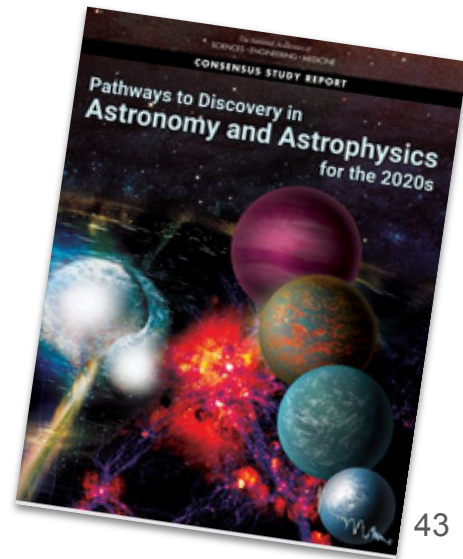


# Summary

- CMB-S4 will do transformational science and no doubt make new discoveries. It is designed to cross critical thresholds in physics and astrophysics at the frontier of our knowledge, while serving the entire astronomical community.
- No current or planned CMB experiment will cross these critical thresholds, even if they continued for 50 years.
- Builds on NSF's decades of investment and leadership in ground-based CMB experiments.

And is well aligned with decadal survey recommendations:

“An important requirement for our strong endorsement is that the project broadly engage astronomers beyond the traditional CMB community. **CMB-S4 will produce data sets of unprecedented sensitivity, cadence and spectral coverage that will advance general astrophysics** and open discovery space opportunities for diverse scientific communities.”

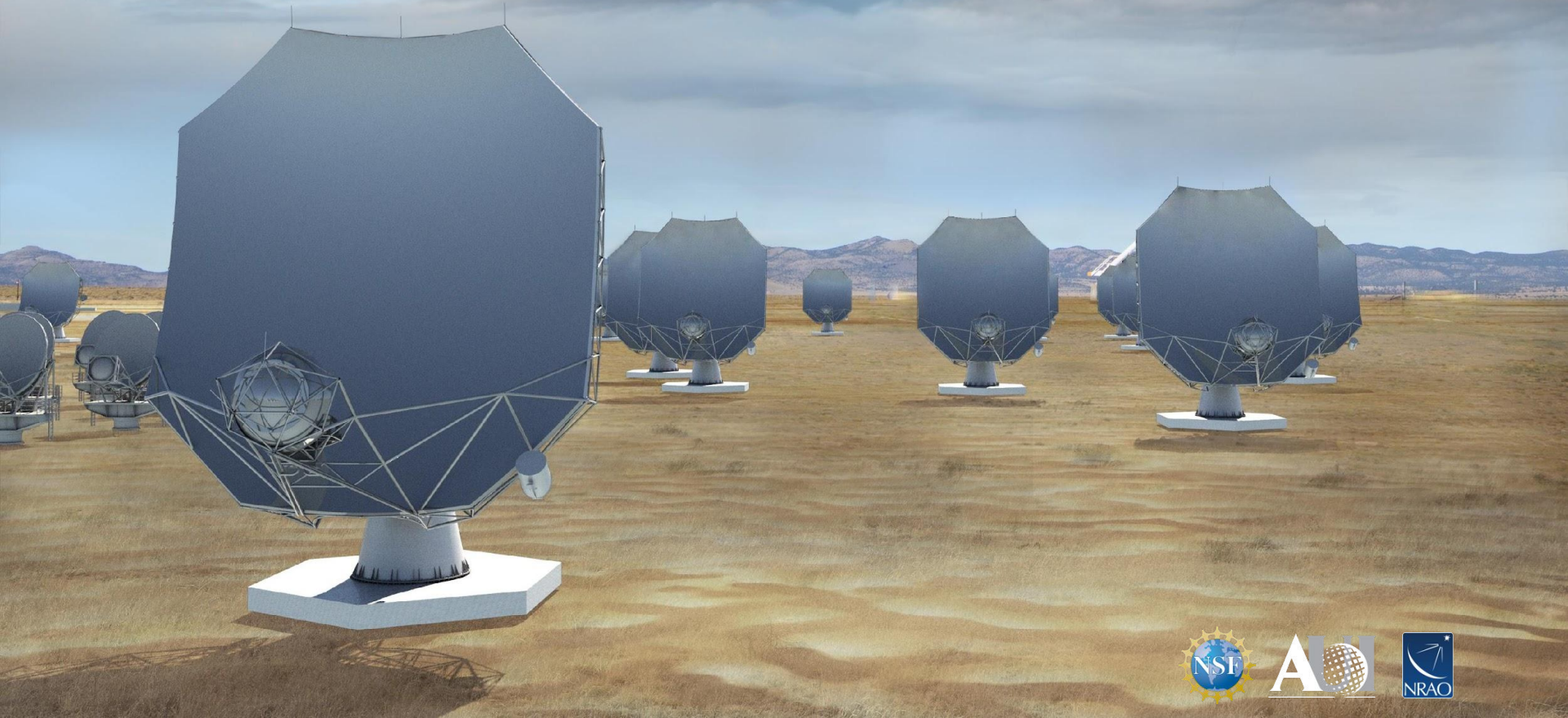


# ngVLA

*Tony Beasley*

Project Director of ngVLA

# next-generation Very Large Array (ngVLA)



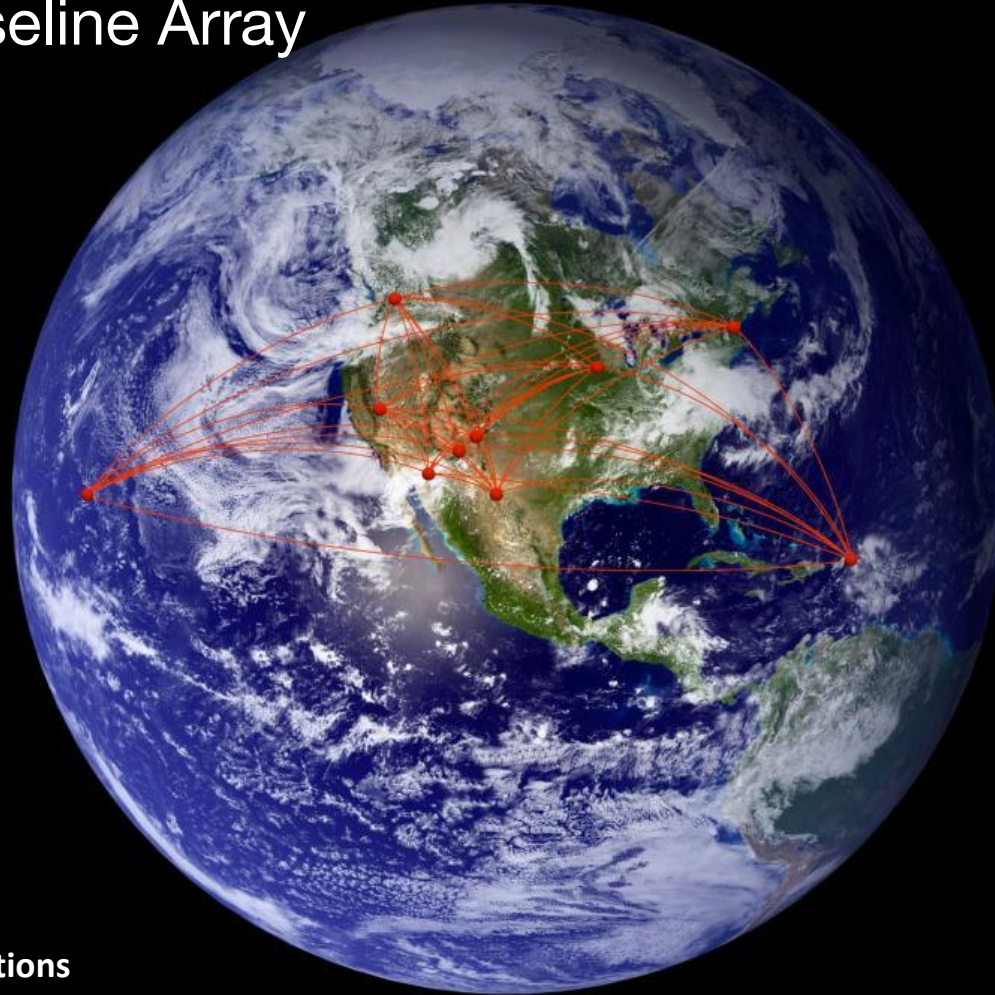


# Jansky Very Large Array



1980 – Full science operations

# Very Long Baseline Array



1993 – Full science operations

# ngVLA – next step in cm astronomy

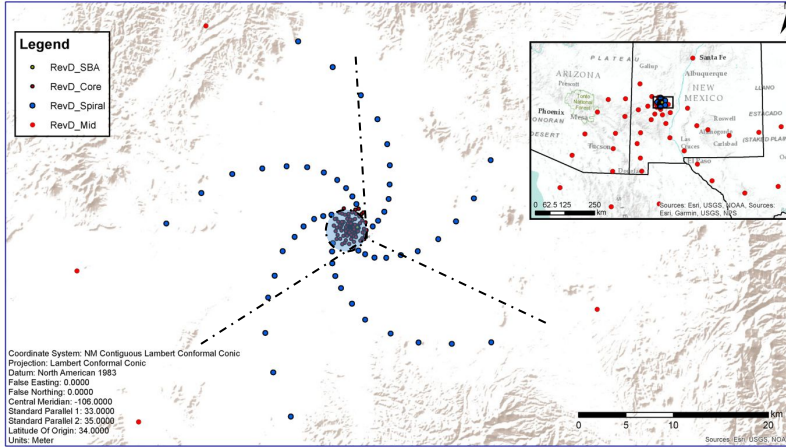
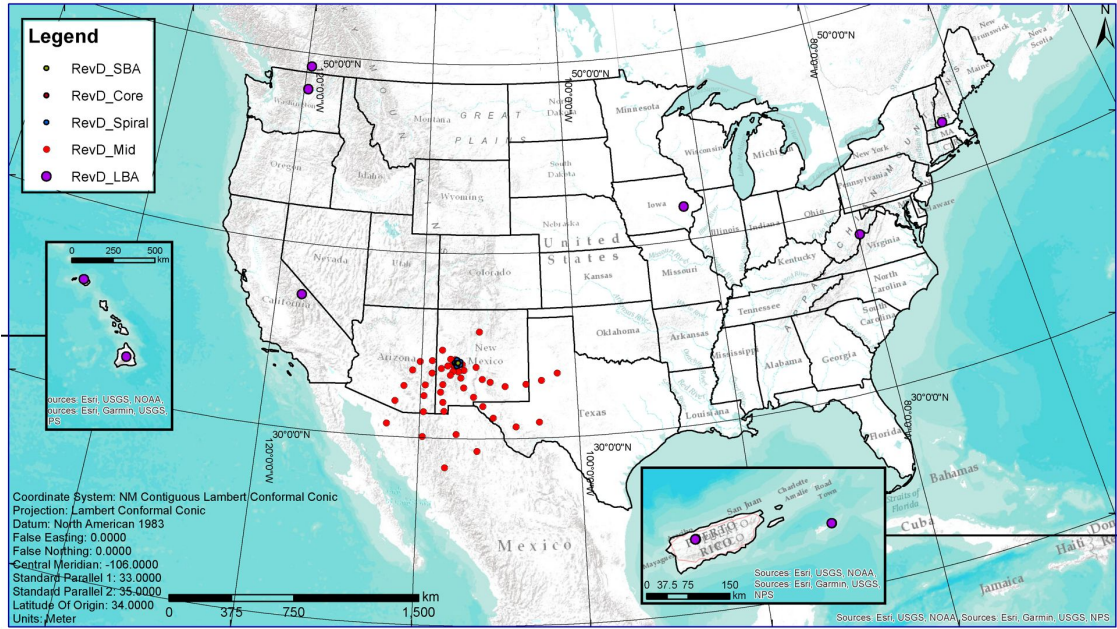
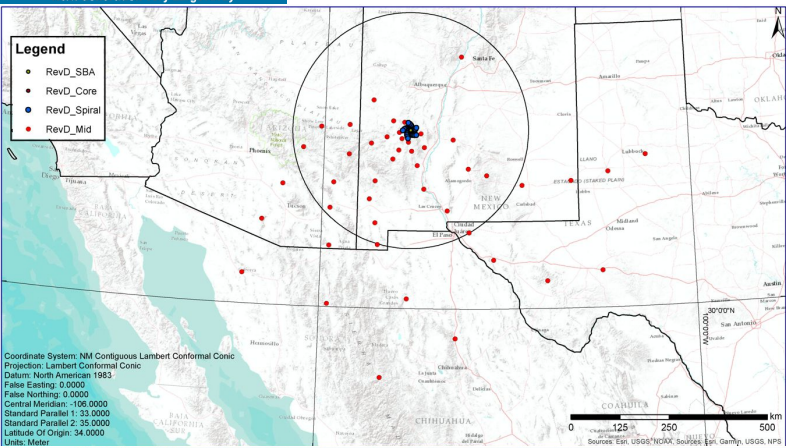
- **1.2 - 116 GHz** Frequency Coverage
- **Main Array:** 214 x 18m offset Gregorian Antennas
  - Fixed antenna locations across NM, TX, AZ, MX
- **Short Baseline Array:** 19 x 6m offset Greg. Antennas
  - Use 4 x 18m in TP mode to fill in  $(u, v)$  hole.
- **Long Baseline Array:** 30 x 18m antennas located across continent for baselines up to 8860km

Band #	Dewar	$f_L$ GHz	$f_M$ GHz	$f_H$ GHz	$f_H : f_L$	BW GHz
1	A	1.2	2.35	3.5	2.91	2.3
2	B	3.5	7.90	12.3	3.51	8.8
3	B	12.3	16.4	20.5	1.67	8.2
4	B	20.5	27.3	34.0	1.66	13.5
5	B	30.5	40.5	50.5	1.66	20.0
6	B	70.0	93.0	116	1.66	46.0



# Configuration

## SBA/Core/Spiral/Mid/Long



## Long Baseline Antenna Locations

Qty	Location	Notes	Qty	Location	Notes
3	Puerto Rico	Arecibo Site	3	Green Bank, WV	GBO
3	St. Croix	VLBA Site	3	Brewster, WA	VLBA Site
3	Kauai, HI	Kokee Park Obs.	3	Penticton, BC	DRAO
3	Hawaii, HI	Not MK Site	3	North Liberty, IA	VLBA site
3	Hancock, NH	VLBA Site	3	Owens Valley, CA	VLBA site

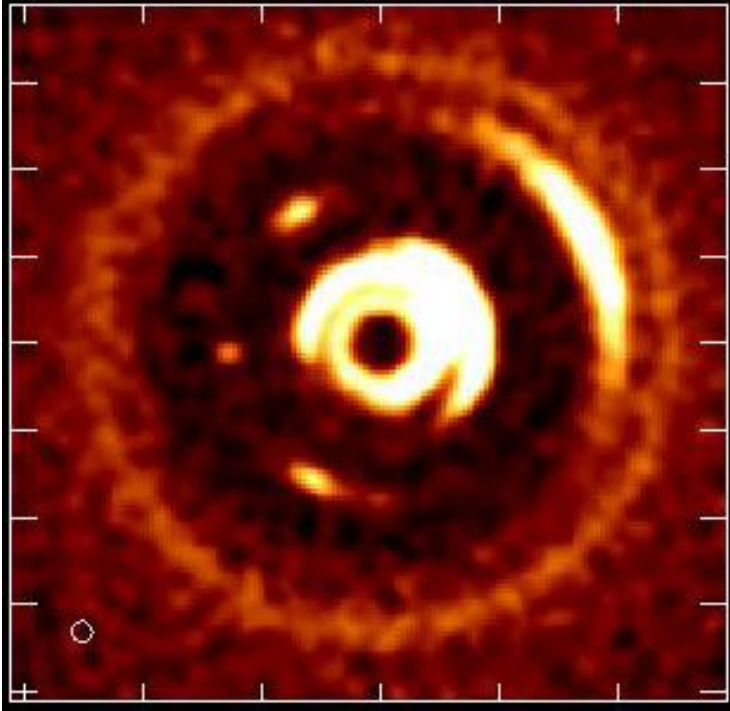


# **ngVLA Key Science Goals** (ngVLA memo #19/ Science Book)

- 1. Unveiling the Formation of Solar System Analogues on Terrestrial Scales***
- 2. Probing the Initial Conditions for Planetary Systems and Life - Astrochemistry***
- 3. Charting the Assembly, Structure, and Evolution of Galaxies Over Cosmic Time***
- 4. Using Pulsars in the Galactic Center as Fundamental Tests of Gravity***
- 5. Understanding the Formation and Evolution of Stellar and Supermassive BH's in the Era of Multi-Messenger Astronomy***

# KSG1: Unveiling the Formation of Solar System Analogues

*The ngVLA will measure the orbital motion of planets and related features on monthly timescales.*



*The ngVLA will measure the planet IMF down to ~5-10 Earth masses and unveil the formation of planetary systems similar to our own Solar System.*

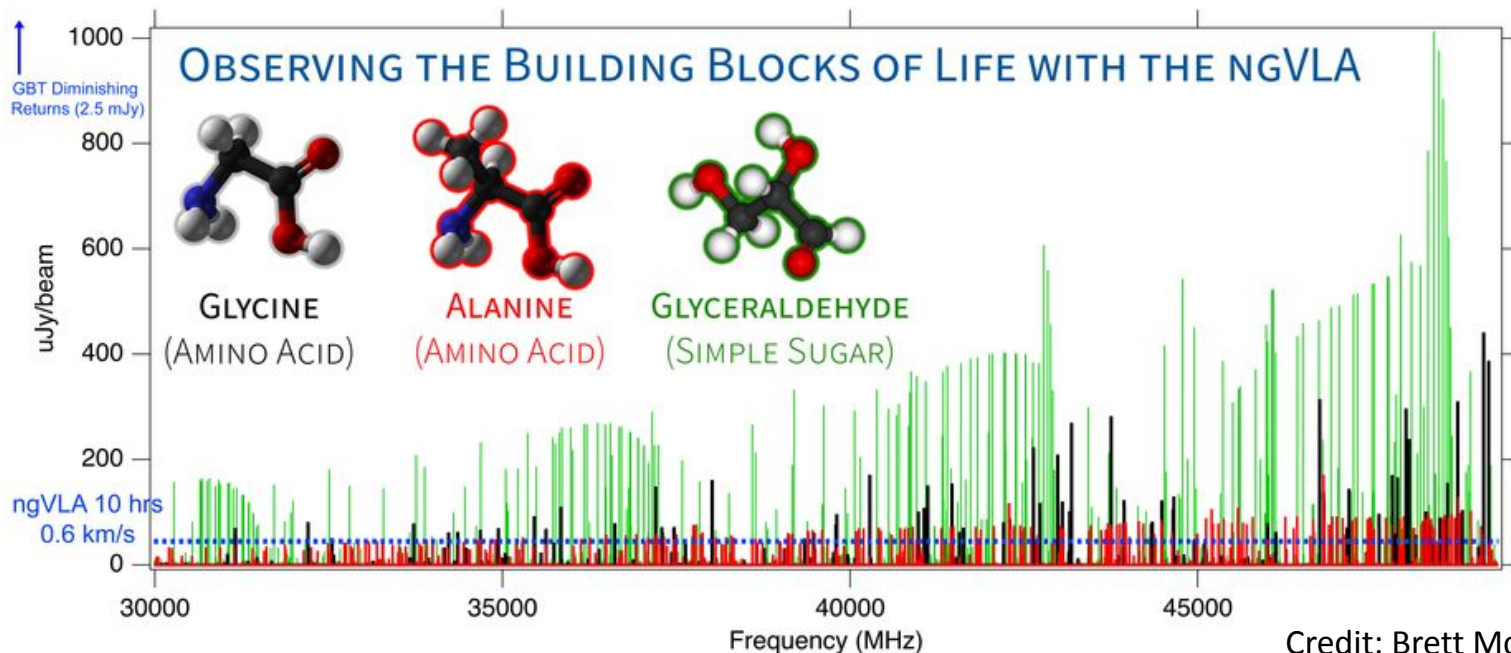
Simulated 100 GHz ngVLA observations  
of a newborn planetary system  
comprising a Jupiter analogue orbiting  
at 5 AU from a Solar type star.

Ricci et al. (2018)



# KSG2: Probing the Initial Conditions for Planetary Systems and Life with Astrochemistry

The ngVLA can detect complex pre-biotic molecules and provide the chemical initial conditions in forming solar systems and individual planets



Credit: Brett McGuire (NRAO)

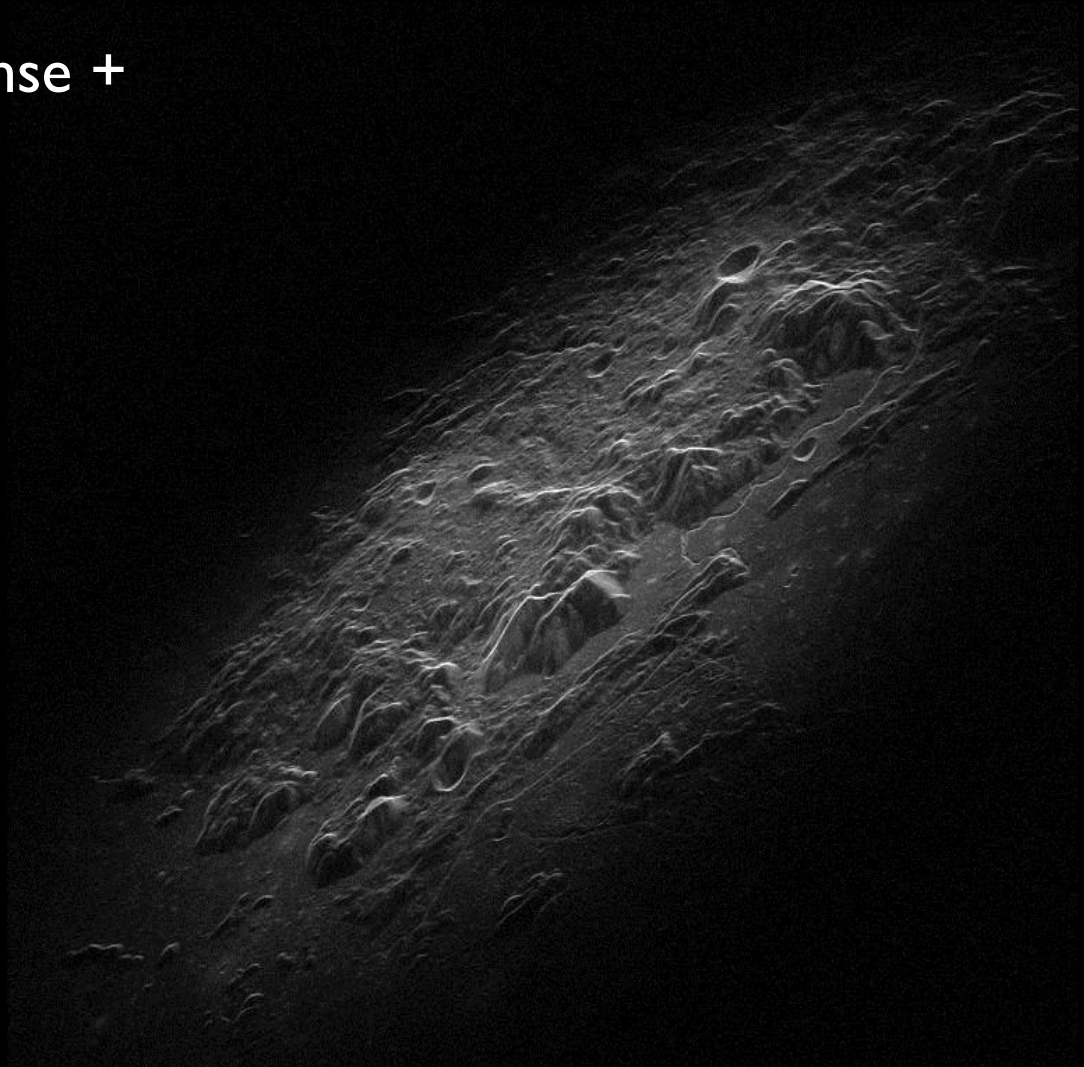
# In its first 10 years, the ngVLA will:

- ***Movies of planets***: Map hundreds of PP disks within 500pc on scales as small as 0.1 au with enough sensitivity to constrain the orbital motions of Earth-mass planets (KSG1).
- ***Origins of Life***: Measure the spatial and temporal evolution of the complex organic chemistry in the mid-planes of 100's of PP disks (KSG2).
- ***Origins of Galaxies***: Image the cold molecular gas (fuel for star formation) down to GMC scales in galaxies back to cosmic reionization and the first galaxies, by detecting their fundamental low- $J$  CO emission (KSG3).
- ***GR beyond Einstein***: Detect hundreds of millisecond pulsars near the Galactic Center (if they exist) to test GR with unprecedented precision (KSG4).
- ***Precision GW physics/Multi-messenger science***: Detect nearly all EM counterparts from next-generation GW facilities, enabling time-series imaging of astrophysical jets on sub-mas scales (KSG5). Explore BH jet-launching regions at high resolution.

# ngVLA - Planetary Defense + Solar System Studies

Radar Pilot – 750W  
Green Bank Transmit – VLBA Receive  
1.25m resolution  
6000s integration

*NRAO/GBO/Raytheon Technologies, Inc.*

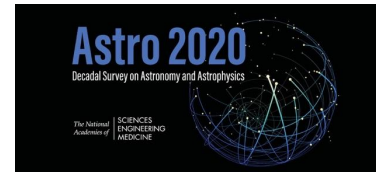




# ngVLA - Space Domain Awareness



# ngVLA Concept Development



2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

**Inaugural  
ngVLA Technical  
Workshop**

ngVLA Science  
White Papers  
Published

**1<sup>st</sup> Radio  
Futures Kavli  
Meeting  
(Chicago)**

ngVLA Project  
Office  
Established

**ngVLA SAC  
Established**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Radio  
Futures Kavli  
Meeting**

ngVLA TAC Established

**Science & Tech  
Meeting (Socorro)**

Reference Design  
Memo Posted

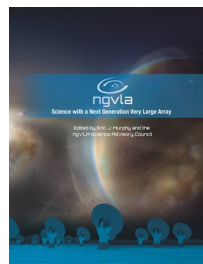
Key Science Goals  
Memo Posted

**ngVLA Development  
Funding (\$11M)**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Kavli Meeting  
(Berkeley)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Science  
Meeting  
(Portland)**

**ngVLA Science  
Book Published**



**3<sup>rd</sup> ngVLA Science  
Meeting (Cville)**

**APC White Paper  
Submitted to  
Astro2020**

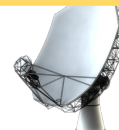
Reference Design  
published

ngVLA CSA  
Created

**Presentation to  
Astro2020 RMS  
Panel**

ngVLA Summer  
Talk Series

**4<sup>th</sup> ngVLA Science  
Meeting (virtual)**



ngVLA Endorsed by  
Canadian LRP

ngVLA- Japan Website  
Launched

NRAO Contracts mtecx  
for Antenna Dev.

**NSF awards prototype  
funding (\$23M)**

**Astro2020 Report  
Published – ngVLA  
Strongly Endorsed**

# ngVLA Academic/International/Industrial Participation



California State University  
**Northridge**



UC San Diego



Cornell University



Caltech

**Raytheon**



**GENERAL DYNAMICS**  
Mission Systems



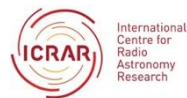
Quantum Design



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
WESTERN  
AUSTRALIA

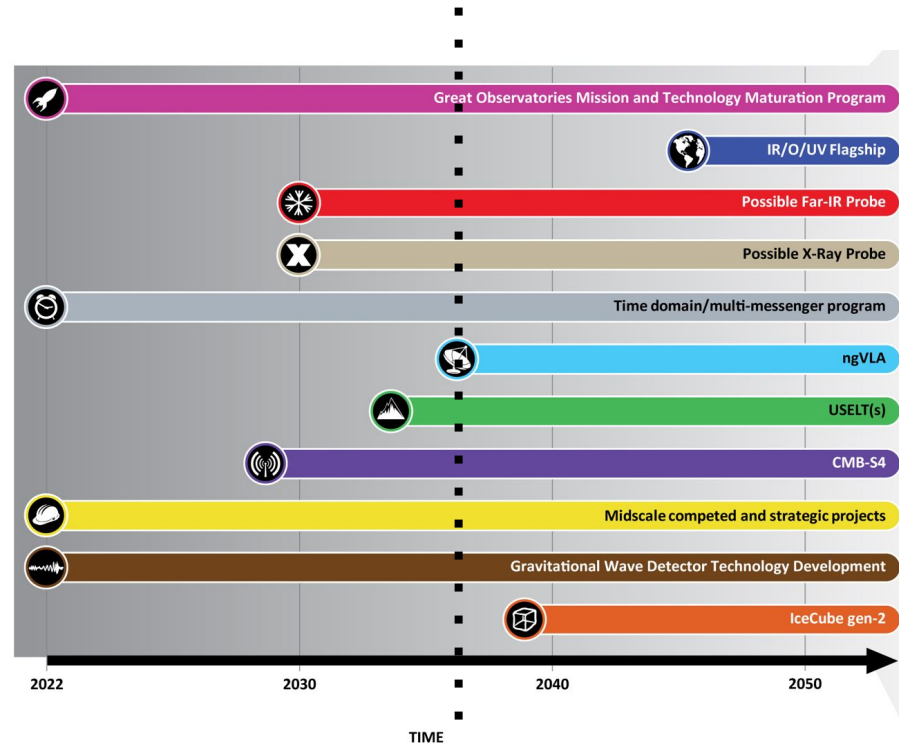
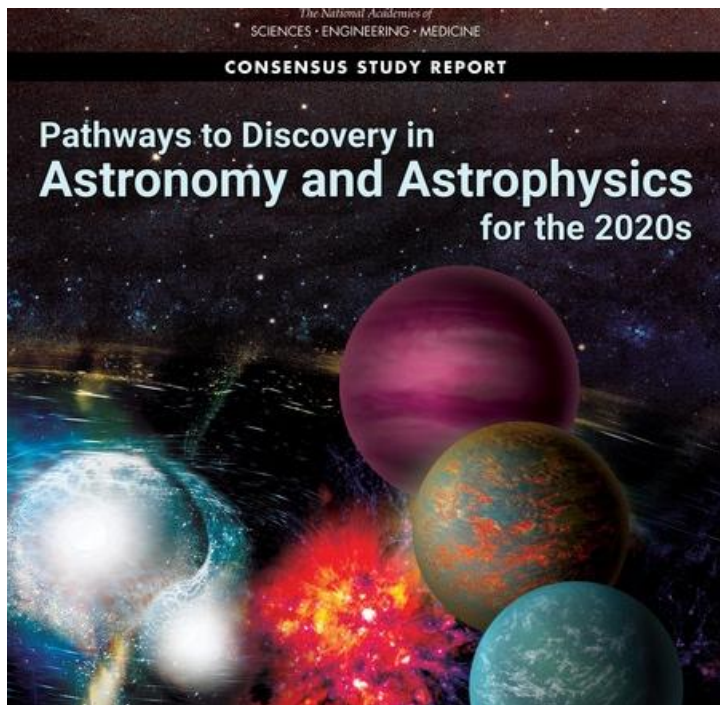


東京大学  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO





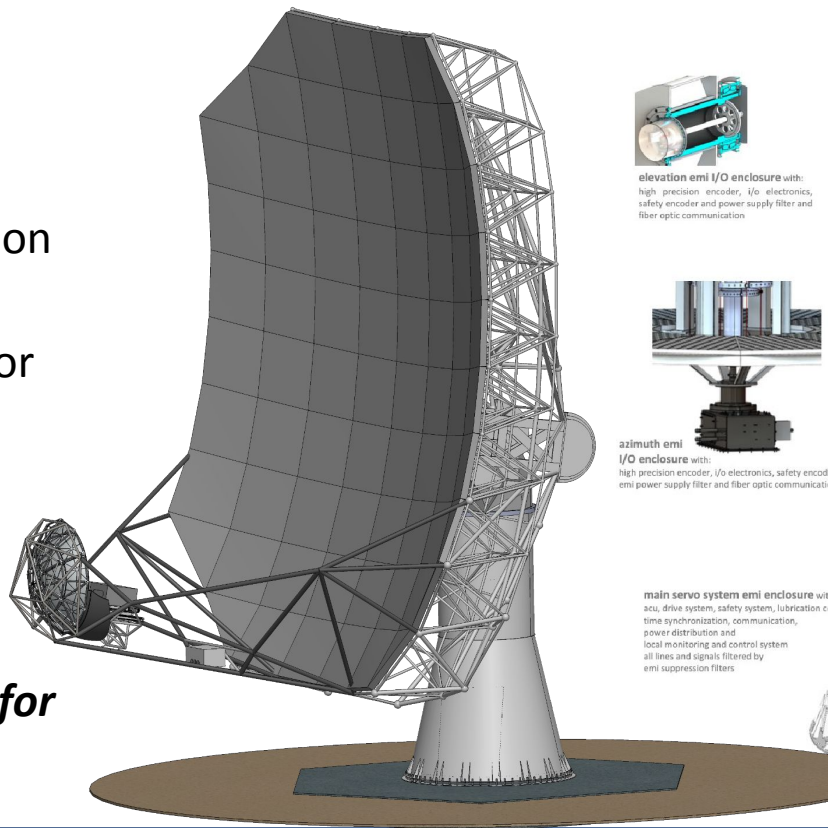
Astro2020 identified the ngVLA as a high-priority large, ground-based facility whose construction should start this decade.



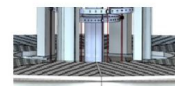
# mtex ngVLA 18m Antenna

- Design – PDR in December
- Prototype antenna construction - 2023
- Less than  $160\ \mu\text{m}$  surface error
- Absolute Pointing:  $18''$  rms
- Referenced Pointing:  $3''$  rms

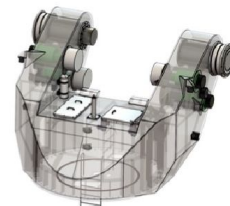
***Key enabling technology for ngVLA and a flexible platform for other future arrays.***



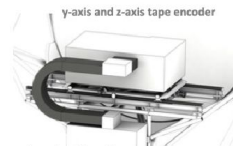
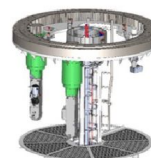
elevation emi i/o enclosure with:  
high precision encoder, i/o electronics,  
safety encoder and power supply filter and  
fiber optic communication



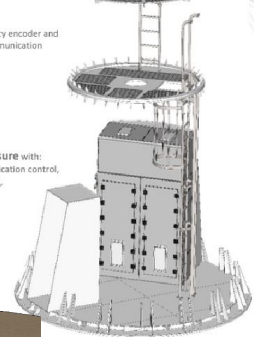
azimuth emi  
i/o enclosure with:  
high precision encoder, i/o electronics, safety encoder and  
emi power supply filter and fiber optic communication



2x azimuth and 4x elevation  
main axis emi servo motors with:  
precision motor encoders,  
high torque density, holding brake and  
emi motor housing and seals



1x y-axis and 1x z-axis  
feed indexer emi servomotors with:  
precision motor encoders, high torque density,  
holding brake and emi motor housing and seals



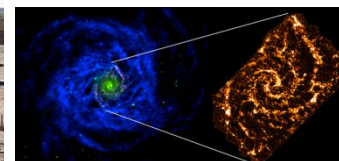
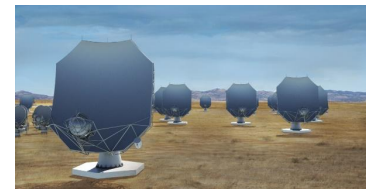
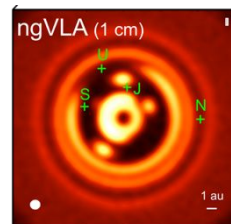
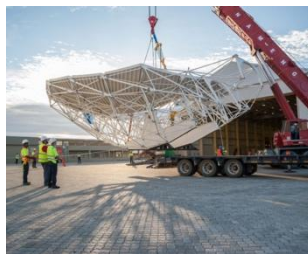
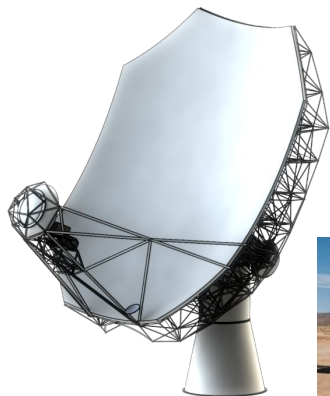
main servo system emi enclosure with:  
acu, drive system, safety system, lubrication control,  
time synchronization, communication,  
power distribution and  
local monitoring and control system  
all lines and signals filtered by  
emi suppression filters

# Project Timeline

**Astro 2020**

Decadal Survey on Astronomy and Astrophysics

The National Academies  
SCIENCES  
ENGINEERING  
MEDICINE



2019

2021

2023

2026

2029

2035

ngVLA  
Submission to  
Astro2020

Prototype Delivered  
to VLA Site  
Enter MREFC

**ngVLA Construction** ☐  
Complete NSF/MREFC FDR

Initiate ngVLA Early Science  
(> VLA capabilities)

Full Science  
Operations

Astro2020 Recommendation Published



# Why build National Observatories?

**National Science**

**48 states**  
**3750+ proposers**

**NRAO – 10 years**



**Science Impacts:**  
**NSF Facilities are**  
**key tools in**  
**democratizing**  
**science in US**

## International Science

64 countries  
4800+ proposers

**NRAO – 10 years**



**“Open Skies”  
approach drives  
international  
science  
collaborations**



# Summary

- ngVLA is designed to tap into the astronomy community's intellectual curiosity, enable a broad range of scientific discovery and new capabilities, and broaden participation and diversity in the scientific endeavor.
- Project technical Conceptual Design Review – July 2022. Antenna prototype – 2023/2024. **Goal: construction ready 2025/2026.**
- Project technical definition/cost – minimal changes since ASTRO2020.
- Major Challenges: Funding. No major technical blockers are seen. Challenges in cost-performance optimizations, manufacturability and reliability are being addressed. Permitting efforts underway.



Next Generation Very Large Array

# Cosmic Explorer

*Matthew Evans*

Associate Professor of Physics at MIT  
and Principal Investigator of Cosmic Explorer



# COSMIC EXPLORER





# What is Cosmic Explorer?

- LIGO has been very successful, but the next big step in gravitational-wave science will require new facilities
- Cosmic Explorer is a larger, and more technically advanced version of the current LIGO observatories
  - Two observatories: one 40km (25 miles) and the other 20km on a side

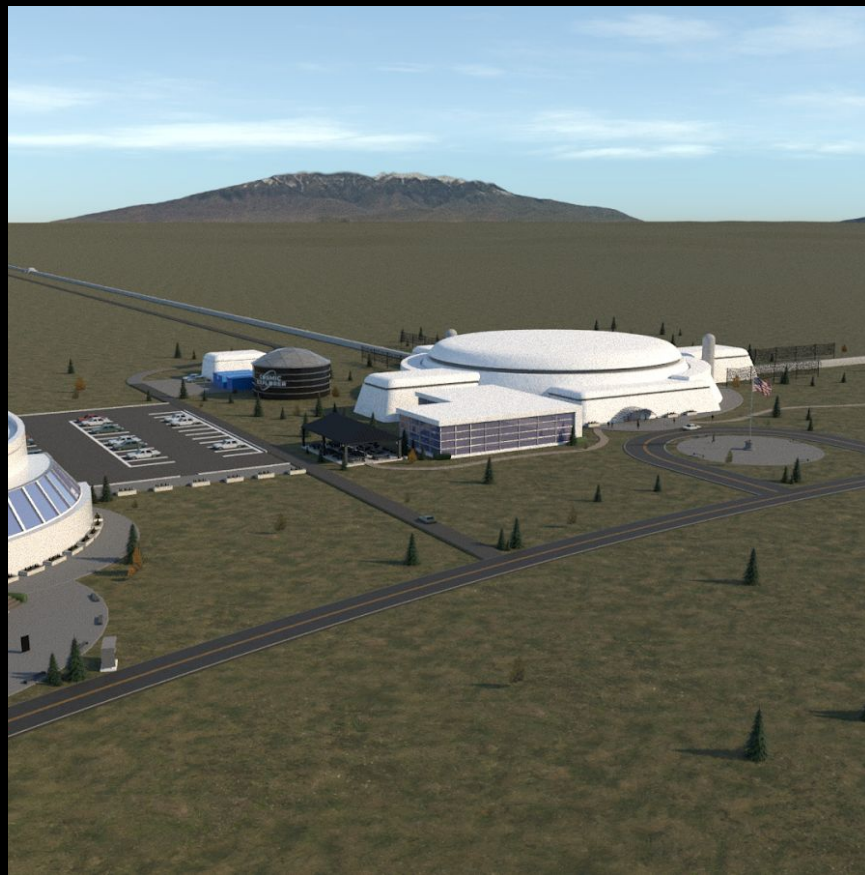
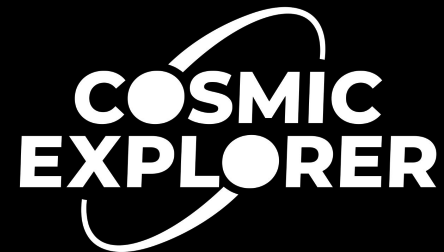


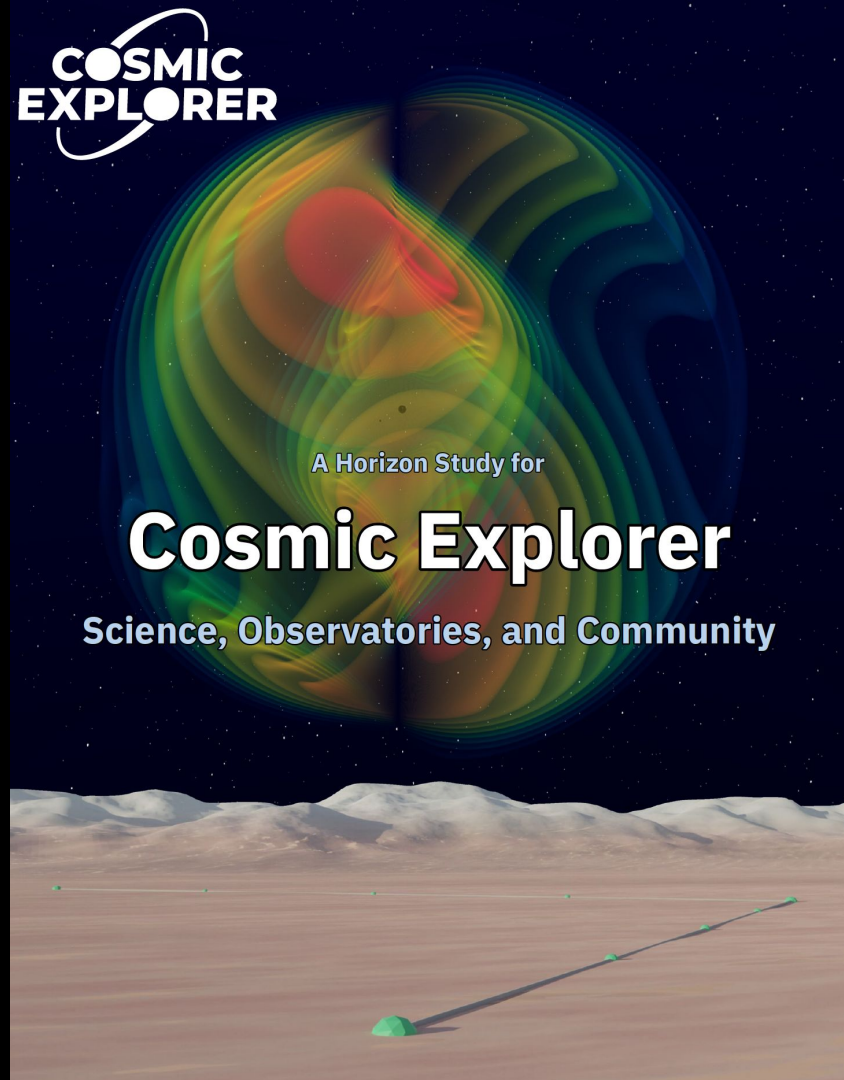
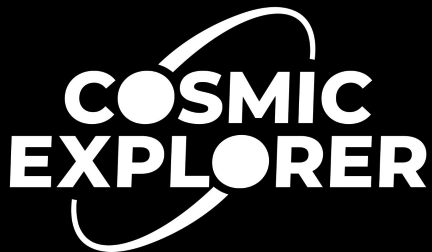
Image: Eddie Anaya (Cal State Fullerton)



# Where can I get more information?

- The Cosmic Explorer Horizon Study contains information about CE science targets, technical design, and social awareness.
- More information can also be found on the Cosmic Explorer website, and all are welcome to join the CE Consortium.

[cosmicexplorer.org](https://cosmicexplorer.org)



A Horizon Study for

## Cosmic Explorer

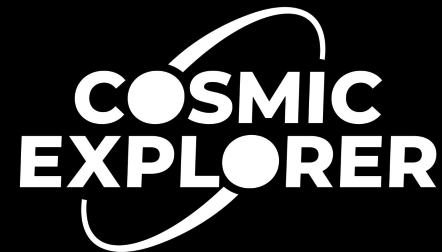
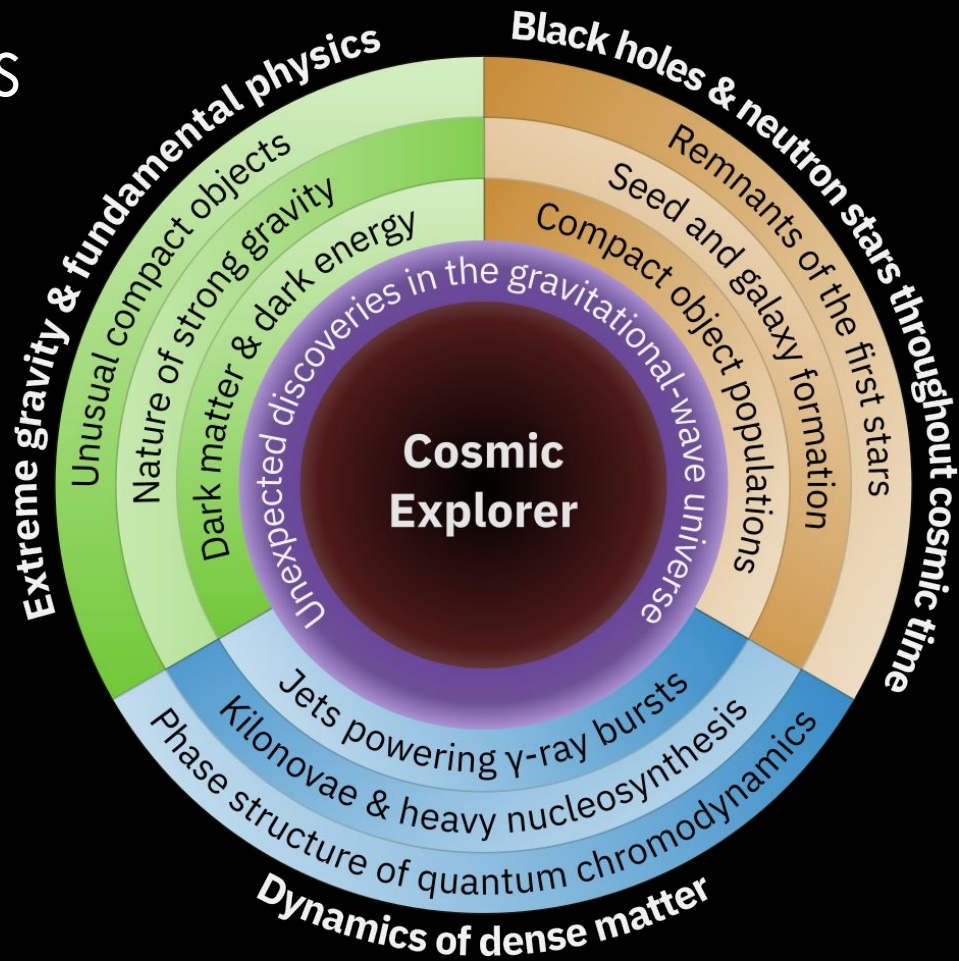
Science, Observatories, and Community





# Science Targets

- The Cosmic Explorer science targets/goals are separated into 3 broad categories, shown in the “science wheel” at right.

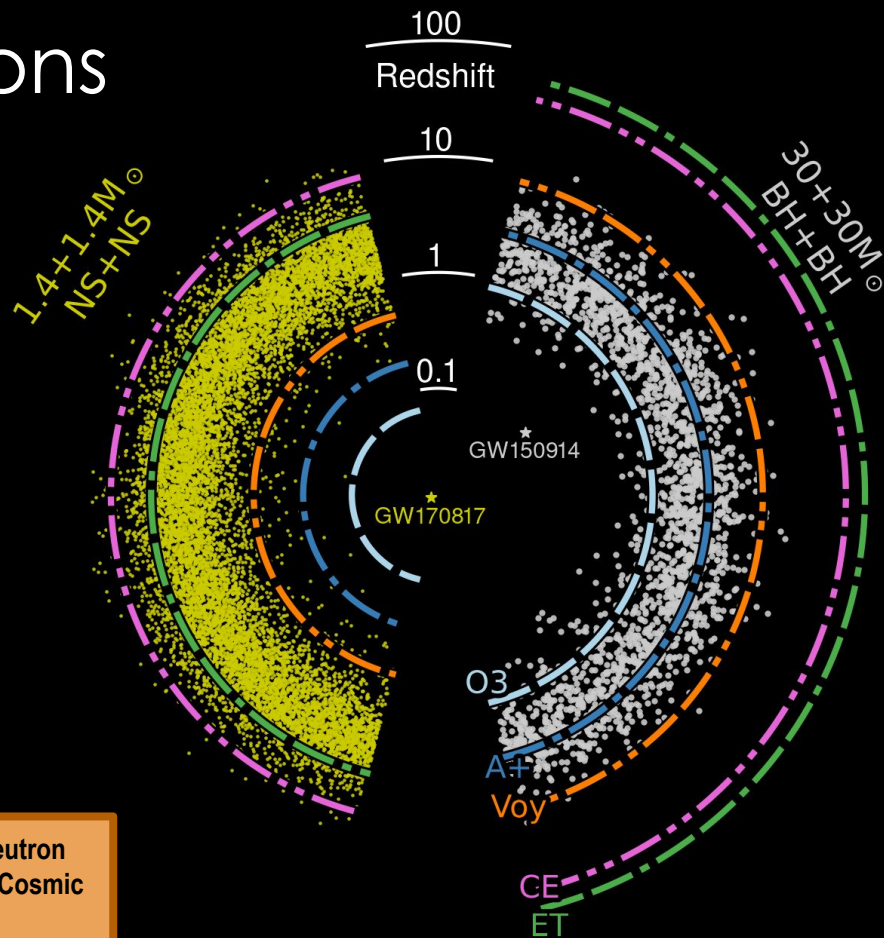






# Source Populations

- The best understood source of gravitational wave emissions for Cosmic Explorer are compact binary systems.
- CE will be able to detect individual stellar-mass systems out to high red-shift.

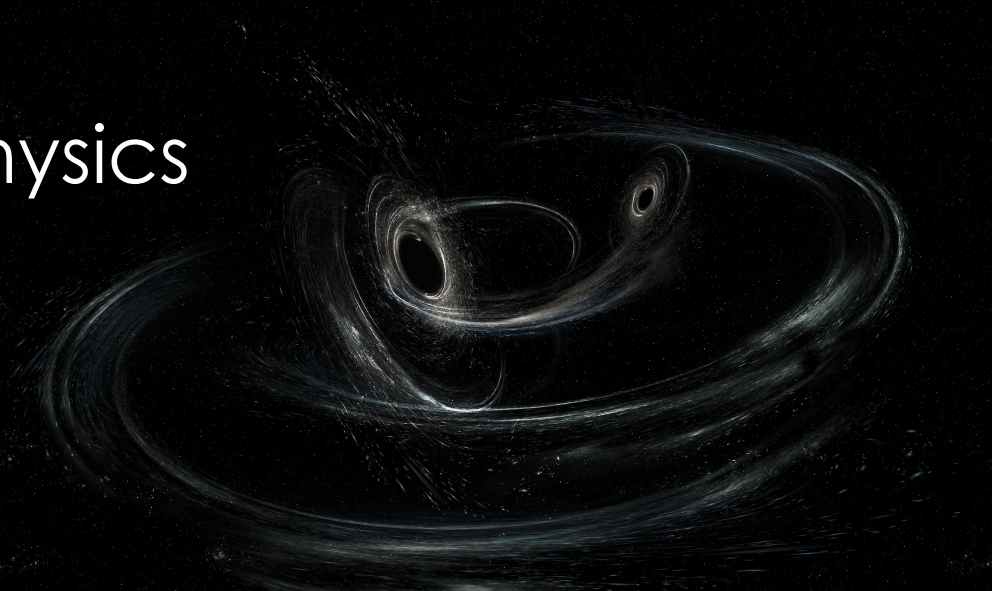


Black Holes & Neutron  
Stars Throughout Cosmic  
Time



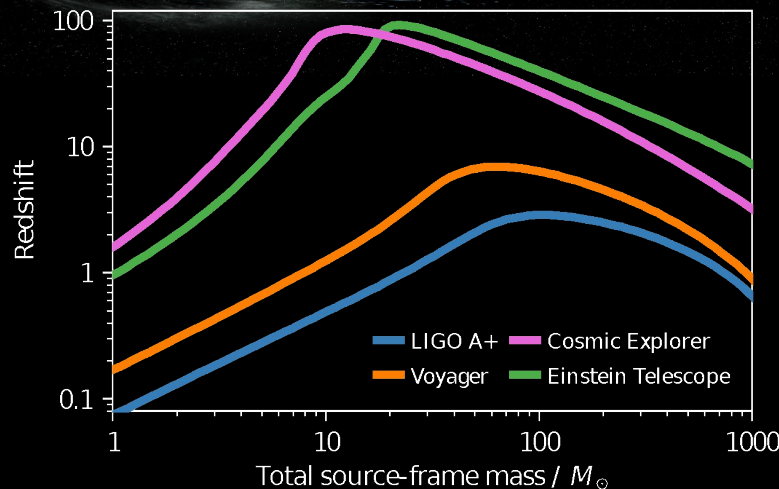
# Fundamental Physics

- Precision tests will be enabled by black hole mergers like those seen now ( $\sim 30$  solar mass, at  $z \sim 0.3$ ), which will have an SNR  $\sim 1000$  in CE.
- With thousands of BBH events per day, we will be able to cherry pick the most telling events (high spins, large kicks, edge-on, high ellipticity, etc.).



**COSMIC  
EXPLORER**

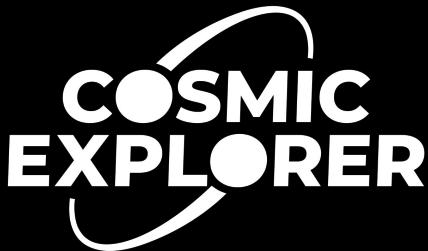
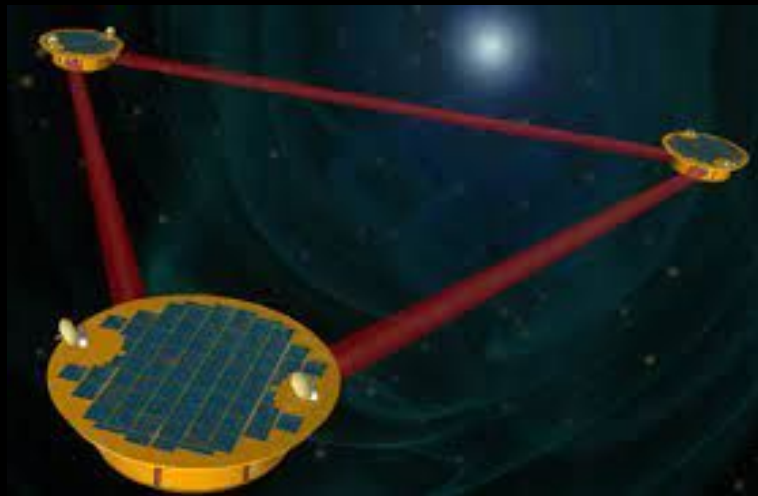
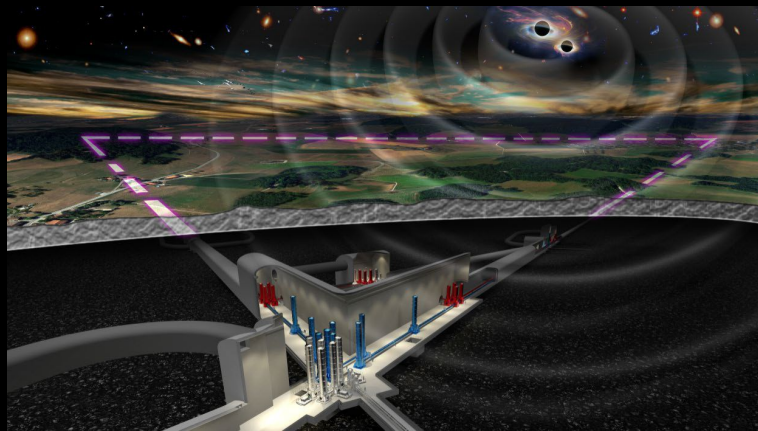
Extreme Gravity  
& Fundamental Physics



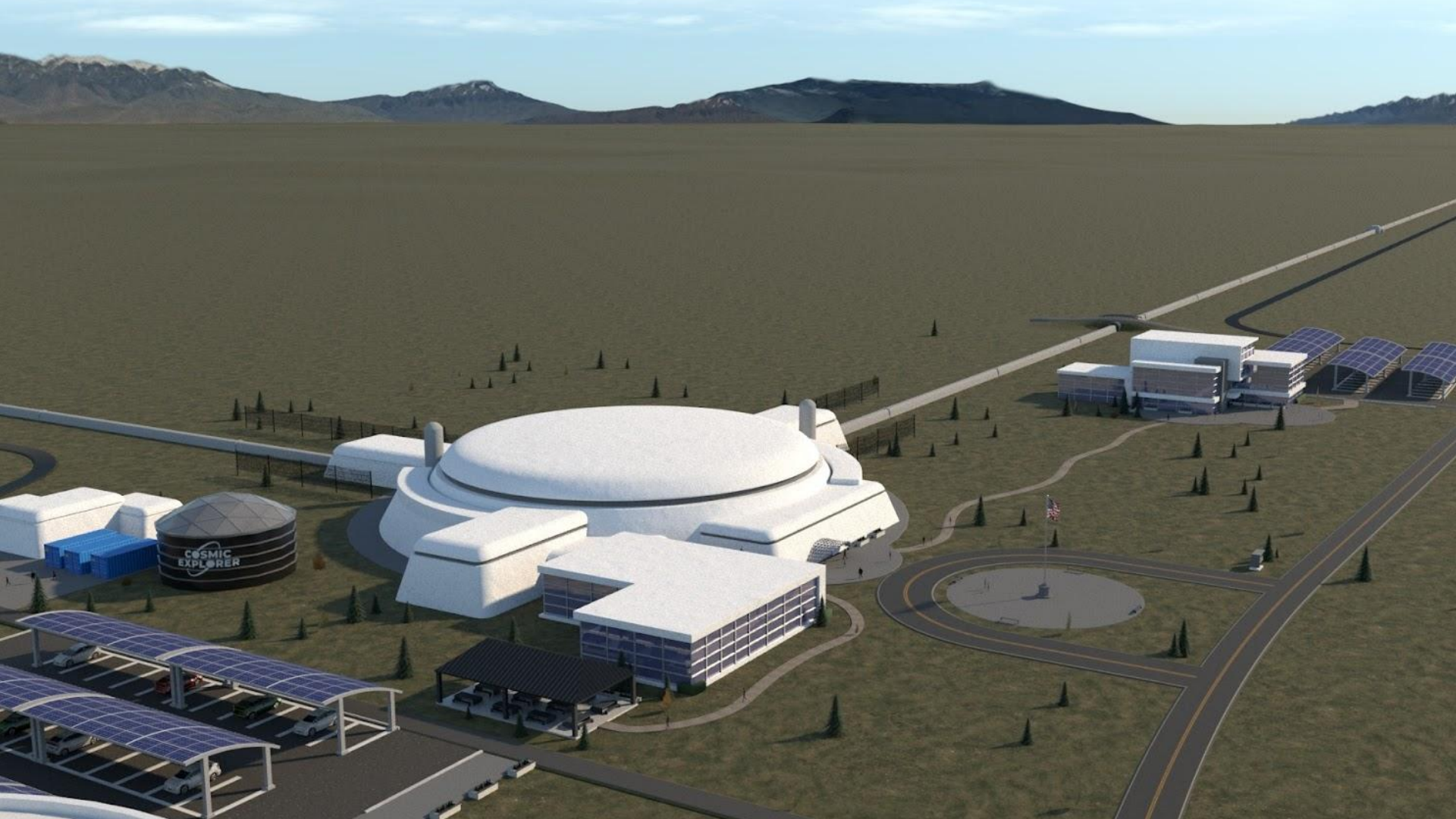


# The Next-Gen GW Network

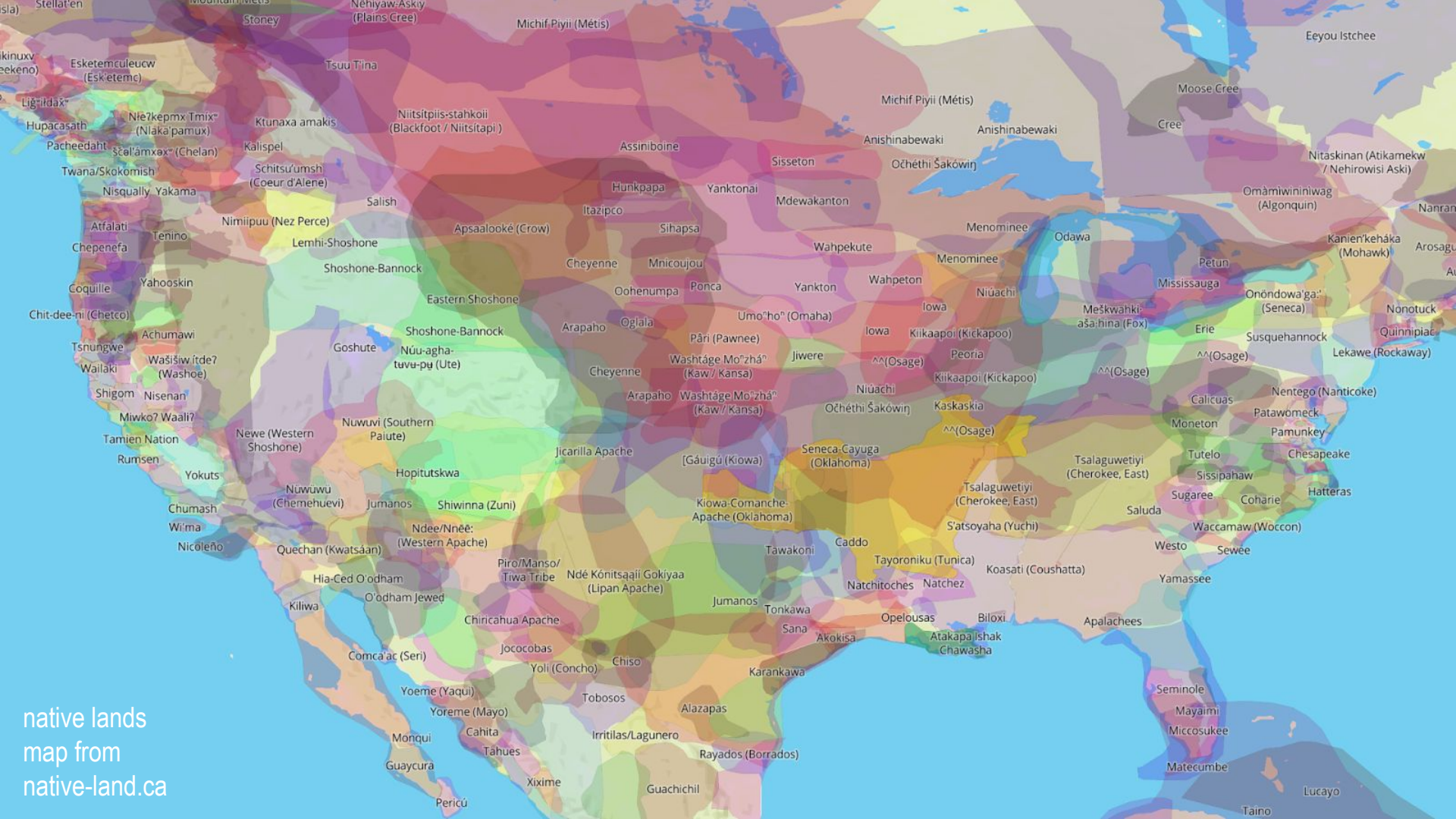
- Einstein Telescope (ET) is a similar project underway in Europe
  - We are planning to operate together
  - Different design (underground triangle, 6 interferometers, 3 of them cryogenic)
- Laser Interferometer Space Antenna (LISA)
  - An ESA-led space observatory with a NASA contribution
  - Expected to be launched in 2034 and take data concurrently with CE and ET











native lands  
map from  
native-land.ca

A detailed map of North America showing the territories of numerous Indigenous nations. The map is color-coded by region, with various nations labeled in their own languages and English. The text is overlaid on the map, centered in the upper half.

**We live and work on the unceded  
ancestral lands of Indigenous peoples.**

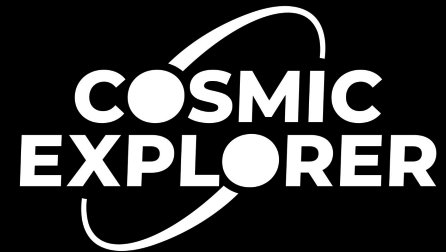
**I, together with the Cosmic Explorer team, acknowledge  
these Indigenous communities and their stewardship of  
the land, past, present and future.**

**The Cosmic Explorer team is committed to building  
long-lasting synergistic relationships with Indigenous  
communities in order to align our goals while building trust and  
mutual respect.**

**learn more about land  
acknowledgements at  
[nativegov.org](https://nativegov.org)**

**native lands  
map from  
[native-land.ca](https://native-land.ca)**





- Cosmic Explorer is the US concept for a next-generation gravitational-wave detector
- There is a lot of great science to do!
- And some complicated issues to address...



# A BOLD FUTURE FOR ASTROPHYSICS

Q & A

MODERATED BY BOB KIRSHNER  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF TMT INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATORY