

# VIRGO DAL PROGETTO EUROPEO PIONIERISTICO ALLA SCIENZA DELLE ONDE GRAVITAZIONALI



Gianluca Gemme  
Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare  
Spokesperson of the Virgo collaboration

THE EUROPEAN GRAVITATIONAL OBSERVATORY

EGO  VIRGO



# THE VIRGO COLLABORATION

EGO  VIRGO

920 members  
163 scientific institutions in 20 countries



# INTERNATIONAL GRAVITATIONAL DETECTOR NETWORK

In operation

Under construction

LHO

LLO

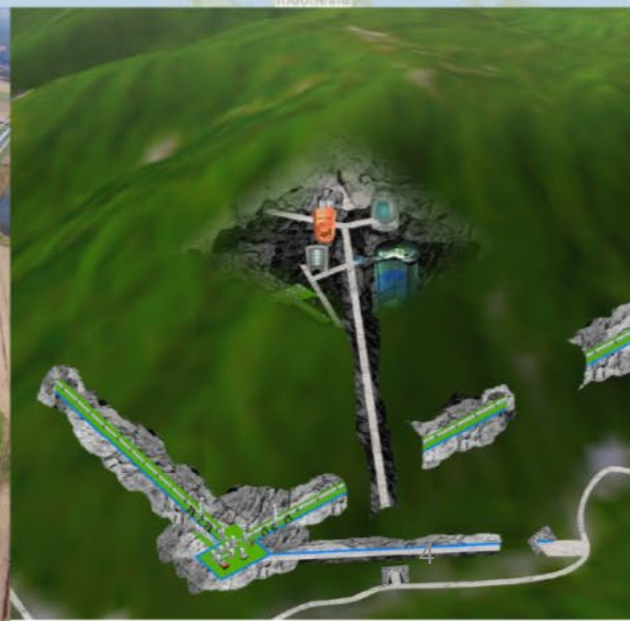
3000 members in four continents

GEO

Virgo

KAGRA

LIGO India



# AT THE SPEED OF THOUGHT

1916: prediction of the existence of gravitational waves (“GWs”) by Albert Einstein

A direct consequence of its General Relativity theory, published the year before

→ Decades of discussion among scientists about the physical reality of GWs

“*Gravitational waves propagate at the speed of thought*” (A.S. Eddington, 1922)

1956 Breakthrough: the Chapel Hill conference

Theoretical consensus that GWs do exist and are worth being searched for

→ Experimental physicists start designing and building GW detectors

REVIEWS OF MODERN PHYSICS

VOLUME 29, NUMBER 3

JULY, 1957

## Summary of the Chapel Hill Conference\*

PETER G. BERGMANN

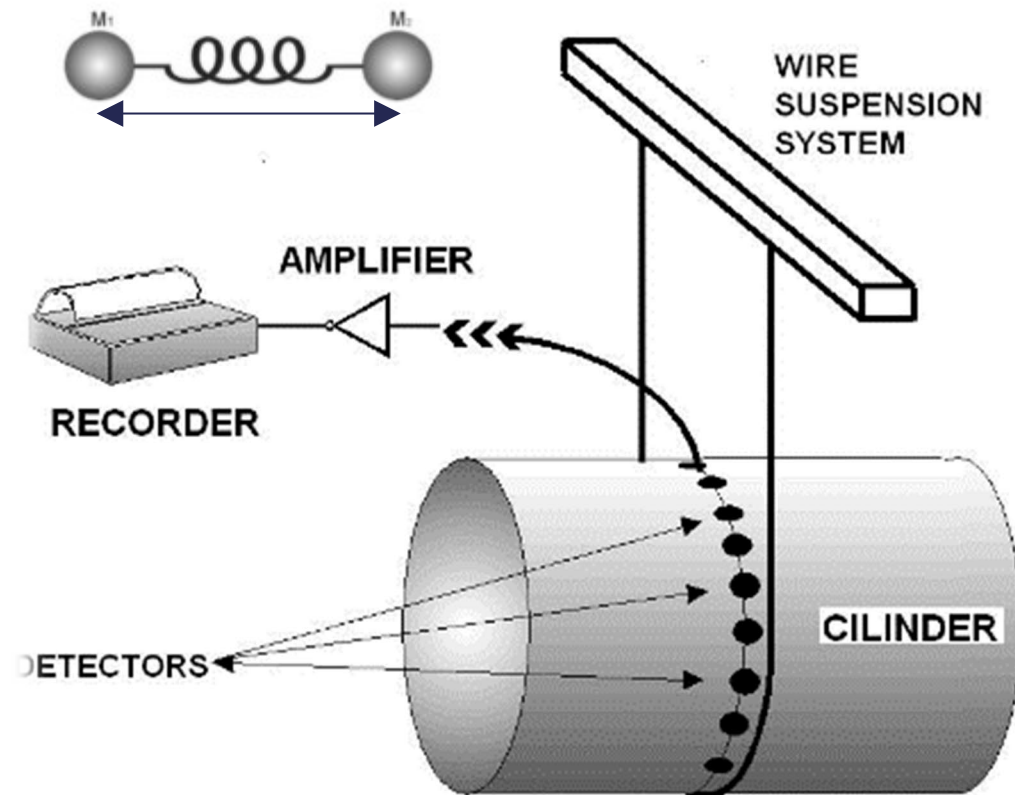
*Department of Physics, Syracuse University, Syracuse 10, New York*

In my opinion the most important nonquantum problem that has been discussed at this conference is the existence of gravitational waves. Actually there is a

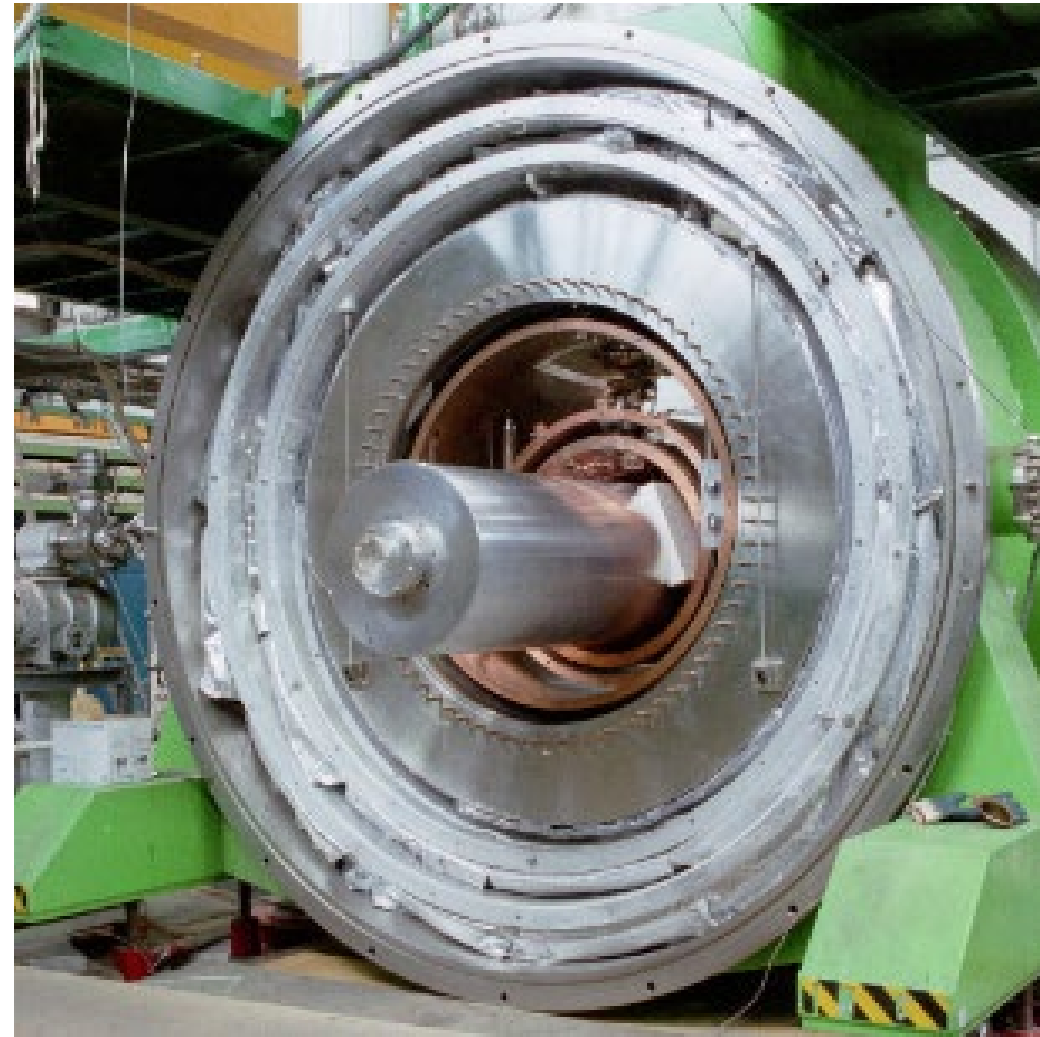
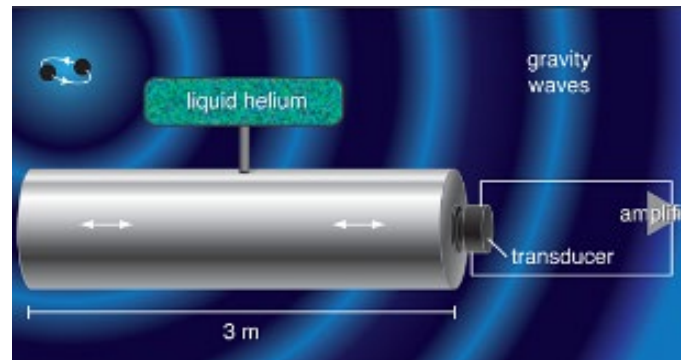
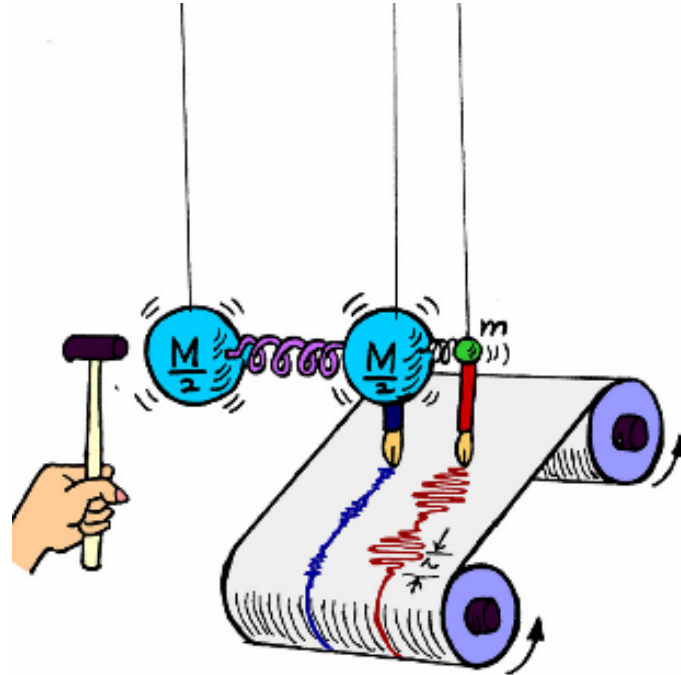
In summary then, I believe that in the time between this conference and the next relativity conference (planned in Europe for the summer of 1958) we have a good chance to make significant progress in the two classical problems concerning gravitational waves and true observables, and that thereby we may also contribute to the task of quantizing general-relativistic fields.

# LA RICERCA SPERIMENTALE DELLE ONDE GRAVITAZIONALI

Verso la fine degli anni '50 Joe Weber realizza i primi strumenti per cercare di rivelare il Passaggio di un'onda gravitazionale in laboratorio:  
le **ANTENNE RISONANTI**

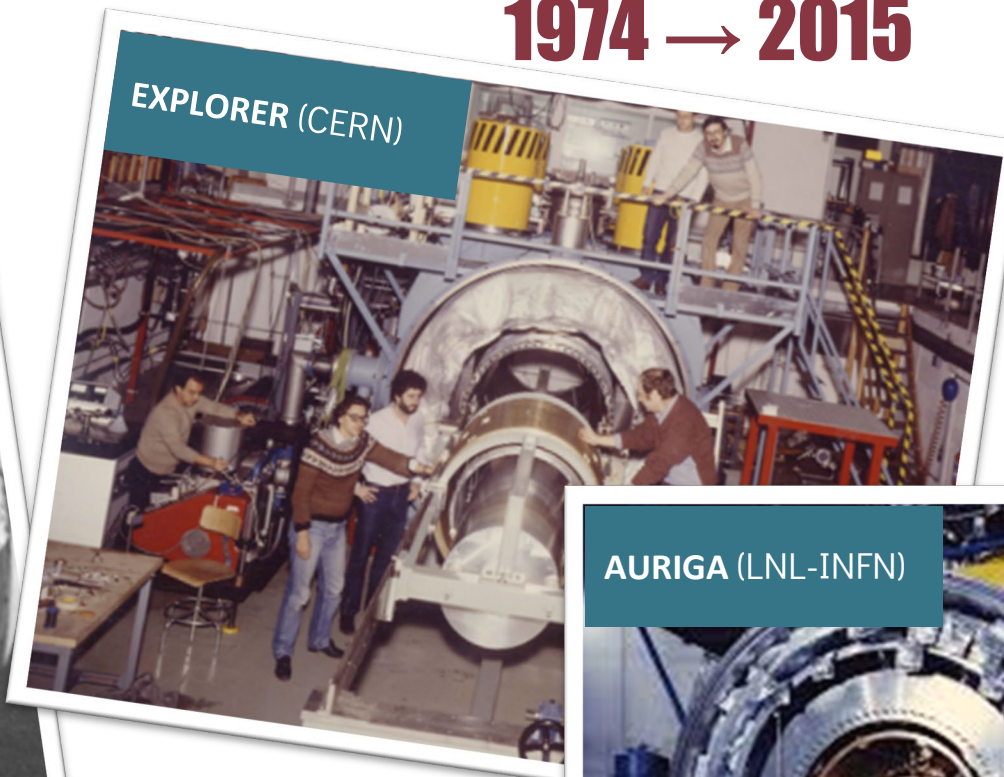


# UN DIAPASON MOLTO SENSIBILE



# SCIENZIATI ITALIANI ALLA RICERCA DELLE ONDE GRAVITAZIONALI

1974 → 2015



Guido Pizzella, Gianvittorio Pallottino, Ivo Modena, Umberto Giovanardi, Fulvio Ricci, Piero Rapagnani, Sergio Frasca, Massimo Bassan, Eugenio Coccia, Pia Astone, Viviana Fafone...

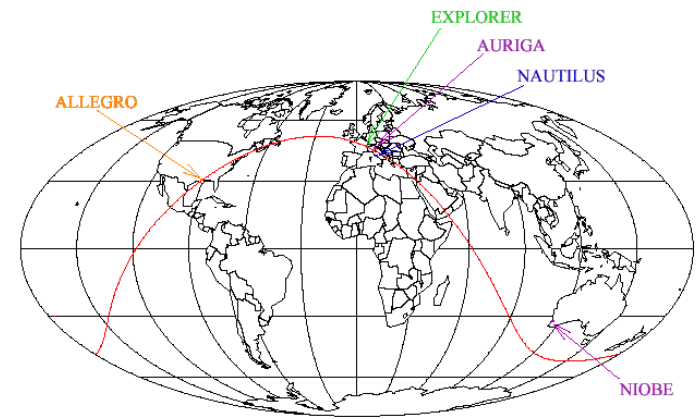
M Cerdonio, G. A. Prodi, S. Vitale, A. Ortolan, L. Taffarello, G. Vedovato, J.-P. Zendri, M. Bonaldi, P. Falferi...



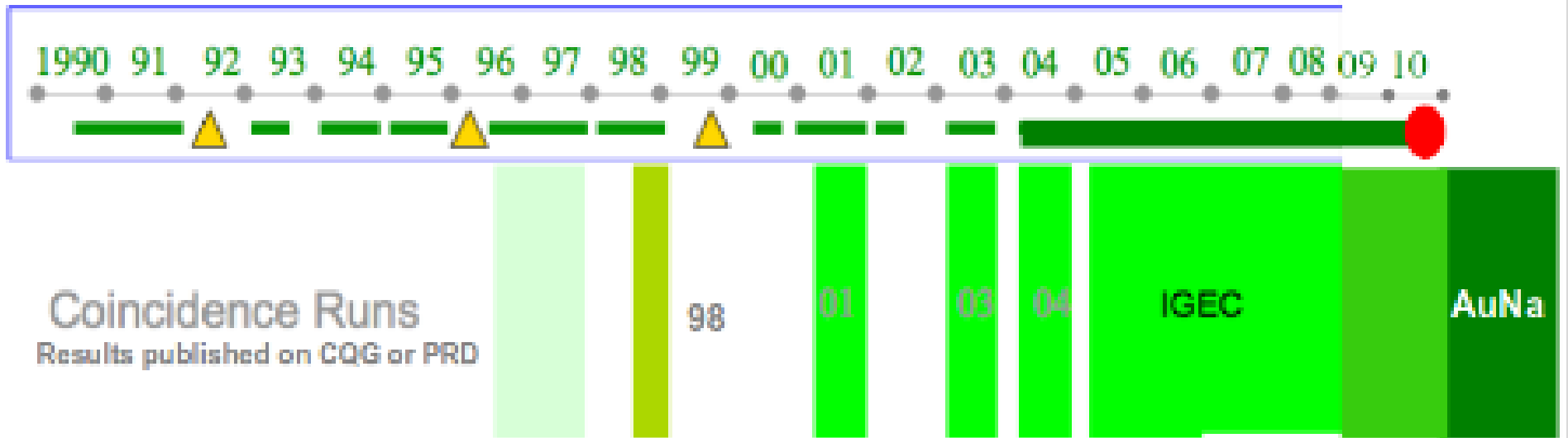


ricerca onde gravitazionali  
Osservatorio Nazionale

# History of E-N DATA TAKING



## EXPLORER



## NAUTILUS



▲ Major upgrades

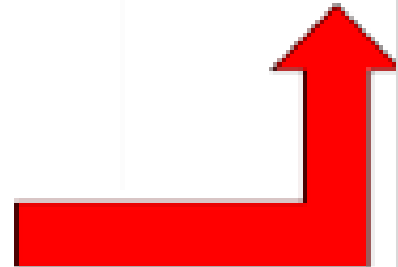
■ > 50% duty cycle

■ > 70% duty cycle

■ > 90% duty cycle

**1990-2012**

**10 years of science run**



## NEL FRATTEMPO...

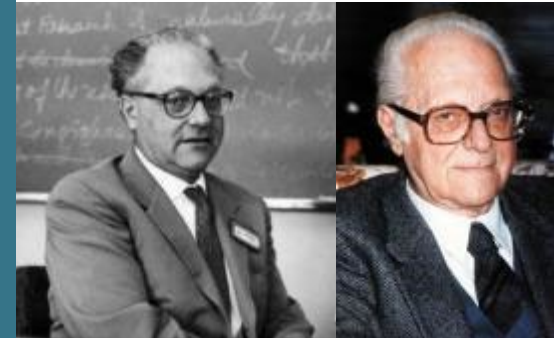
**1962**

I fisici russi **M. E. Gertsenshtein** e **V. I. Pustovoit** pubblicano il primo lavoro che descrive i principi generali per l'uso degli interferometri come rivelatori di onde gravitazionali. Il lavoro passò largamente inosservato...

**1962-1970**

**Edoardo Amaldi** stimolò la comunità scientifica italiana verso la ricerca sperimentale in nuovi campi

**Guido Pizzella**, l'assistente di Amaldi, cominciò a interessarsi della ricerca delle onde gravitazionali. Il suo interesse si rivolse alle 'antenne' di Weber

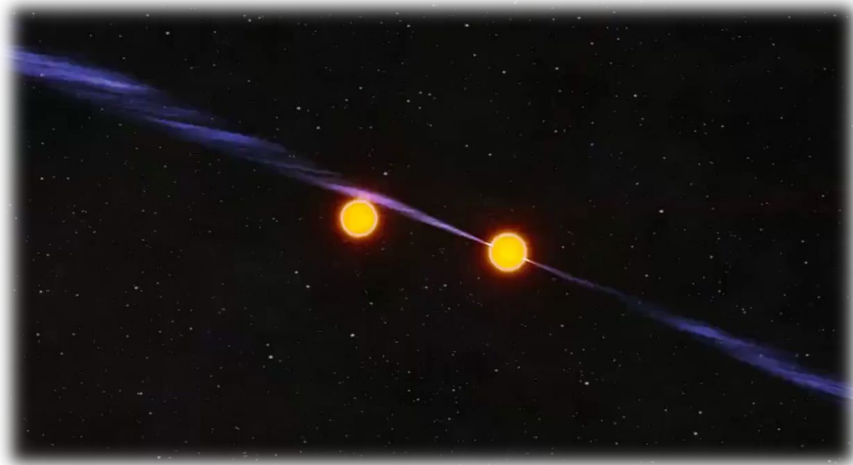


**1972**



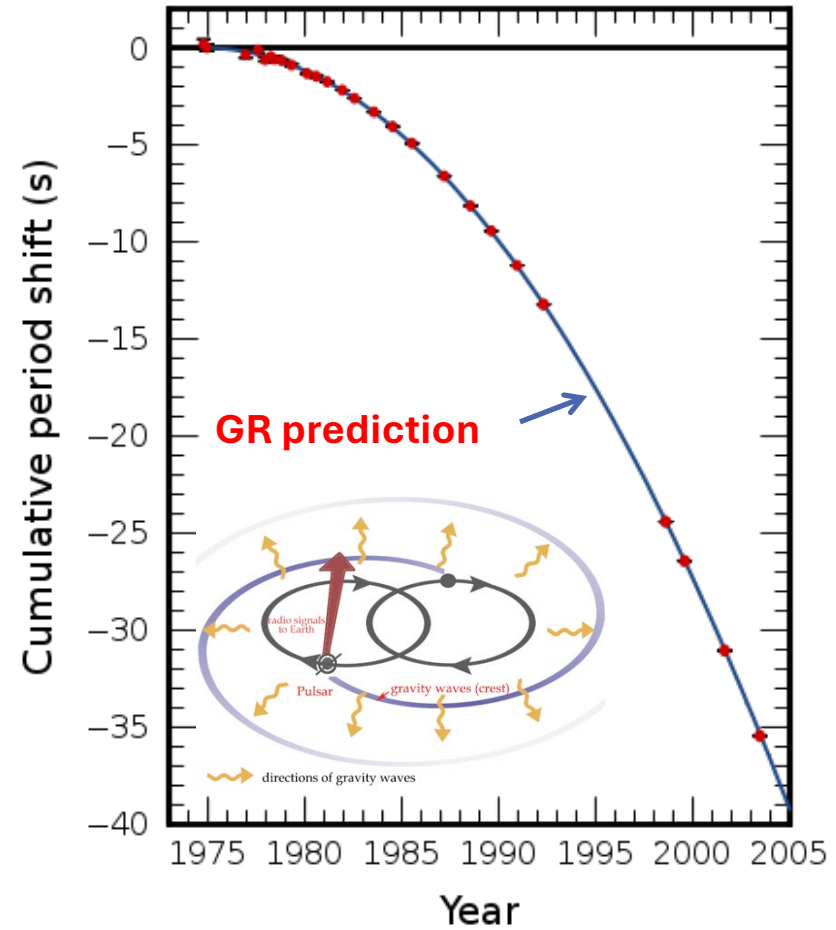
**Rainer Weiss** del Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge (MA, USA) propose indipendentemente metodi ottici per rivelare le onde gravitazionali

# SIAMO SICURI CHE ESISTANO? UN'EVIDENZA INDIRETTA...



**The Nobel Prize in Physics 1993**  
Russell A. Hulse, Joseph H. Taylor Jr.

## 1974-1979



# INTERFEROMETRIC DETECTORS: TIMELINE

- 1970: first IFO prototype (R. Forward, Hughes Research Laboratories)
- 1972: IFO design studies (Weiss)
- 1980's: ~10m-long IFO prototypes: Caltech, MIT, Garching, Glasgow, Orsay
- 1985: Marcel Grossman conference
  - Alain Brillet (CNRS) and Adalberto Giazotto (INFN) meet
- 1989: LIGO proposal (approved 1990, funded 1991)
- 1987-89: Virgo proposal (approved 1992)
  - Birth of what will become Virgo
  - Core: French-Italian collaboration



Robert Forward



# THE BIRTH OF LIGO



## QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

No. 105

APRIL 15, 1972

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

RESEARCH LABORATORY OF ELECTRONICS

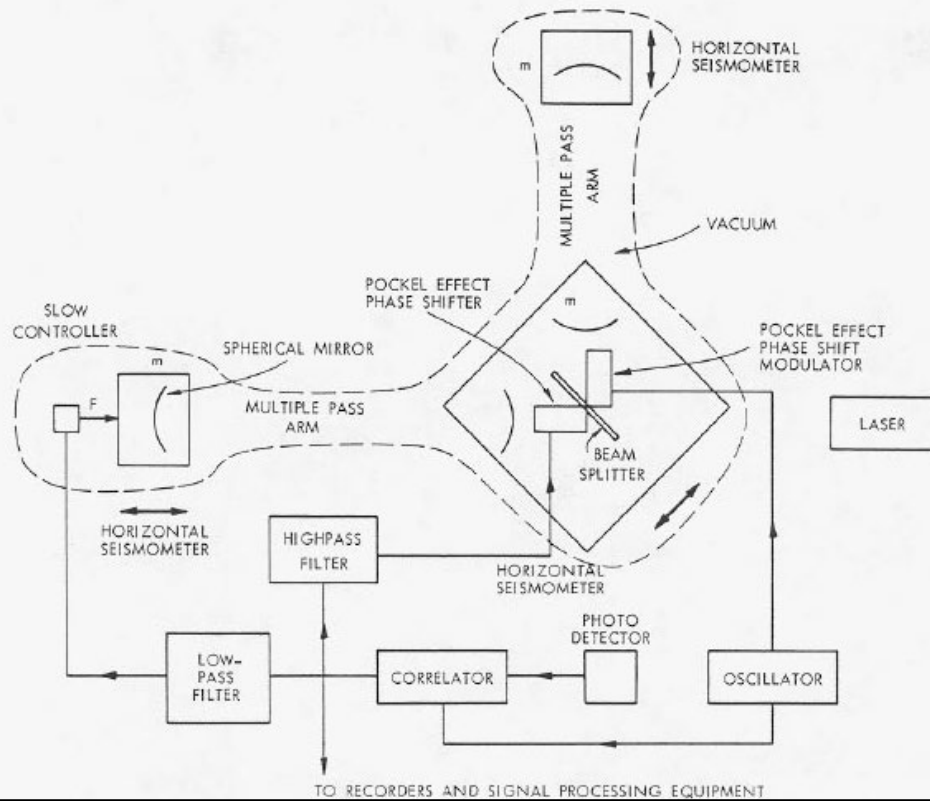
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

(V. GRAVITATION RESEARCH)

B. ELECTROMAGNETICALLY COUPLED BROADBAND GRAVITATIONAL ANTENNA

I. Introduction

The prediction of gravitational radiation that travels at the speed of light has been



# THE VIRGO PROJECT



A. Brillet and  
A. Giazotto

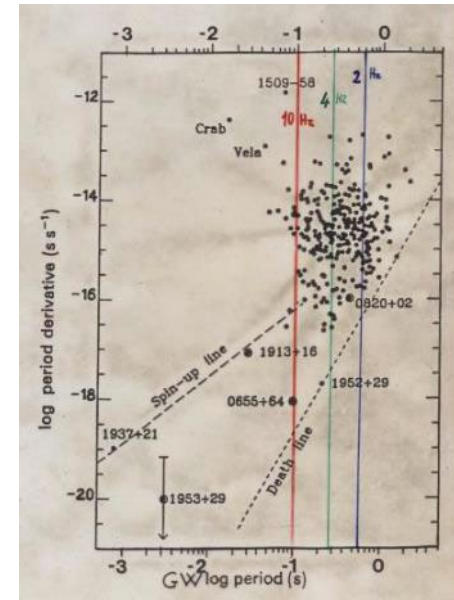


Laser know-how  
Precise measurements

Complementary expertises for a common goal → detect GWs



Seismic isolation for resonant bars  
Going low in frequency to detect pulsars



# SAN PIERO A GRADO, 1985



## One-mile equivalent length interferometric pendulum for seismic noise reduction

A. Giazotto, D. Passuello, and A. Stefanini

*I. N. F. N. Sezione di Pisa and Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Pisa, Pisa, Italy*  
(Received 9 August 1985; accepted for publication 14 February 1986)

We describe the performances of a 100-kg, 1-m-long active pendulum provided with a reference arm to get rid of the effects of tilting of the ground. The pendulum displacement with respect to the suspension point is measured interferometrically. The phase signal, to be sent to the actuator which displaces the suspension point, is extracted from the interferometer using an analog phase follower. At 10 Hz we obtain a virtual pendulum length of 1.7 km with the reference arm locked and 1.2 km when the reference arm is free. This device can be used to reduce the seismic noise in an antenna for low-frequency gravitational wave detection.

### INTRODUCTION

It is well known that the length of a pendulum can be electronically increased<sup>1,2</sup> with the purpose of reducing the seismic

$$\phi \approx \phi [B / (1 - B)] + 0(1/B),$$

i.e., the PZT2 driving voltage is proportional to  $\phi$  and can be used to drive the actuator displacing the pendulum suspension

Proposal to the National Science Foundation

**A  
LASER INTERFEROMETER  
GRAVITATIONAL-WAVE  
OBSERVATORY  
(LIGO)**

*VOLUME 1:  
LIGO Science and Concepts*

*December 1989*

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

**LIGO PROJECT**



**THE VIRGO PROJECT**



May 1987: initial proposal

24

12 Maggio 1987  
INFN PI/AE 87/1

Proposta di

**Antenna interferometrica a grande base per la  
ricerca di Onde Gravitazionali**

Laboratori INFN Pisa e Università' di Pisa:

Carlo BRADASCHIA  
Raffaele DEL FABBRO  
Angela DI VIRGILIO  
Adalberto GIAZOTTO  
Hans KAUTZKY  
Vinicio MONTELATICI  
Diego PASSUELLO

Università' di Napoli	CNR Frascati
Fabrizio BARONE Riccardo BRUZZESE Antonello CUTOLO Luciano DI FIORE (INFN) Massimo LANDINI Maurizio LONGO <u>Leopoldo MILANO</u> Salvatore SOLIMENO	<u>Franco BORDONI</u> Franco FULIGNI Valerio IAFOLLA
	Università' di Salerno Innocenzo PINTO

Gravitation et cosmologie Relativiste (Orsay-Paris)  
CNRS-Univ. Pierre et Marie Curie

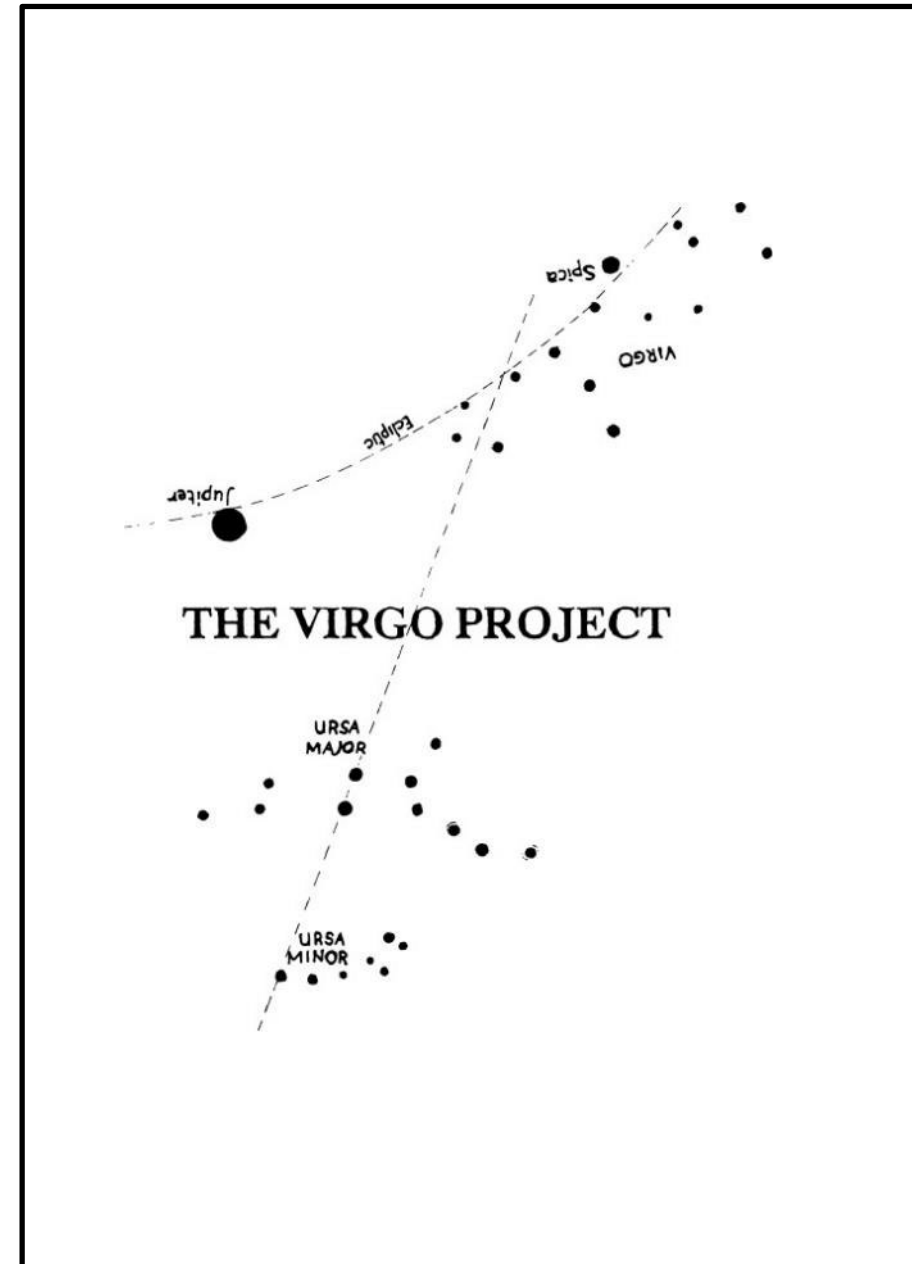
J.L. BOULANGER  
Alain BRILLET  
Oliver CREGUT  
C. Nary MAN  
Alain MARRAUD  
David SHOEMAKER  
Philippe TOURRENC  
Jean-Yves VINET



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PISA  
DIPARTIMENTO DI FISICA



Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare  
Sezione di Pisa



1989: Virgo proposal

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DIPARTIMENTO DI FISICA

  
Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare  
Sezione di Pisa

**THE VIRGO PROJECT**

INFN Sez. di Pisa  
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dell'Università di Pisa

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G. RUSSO  
S. SOLIMENO

Dipartimento di Elettronica  
delle Università  
di Salerno e di Napoli

M. CAPOZZI  
M. LONGO  
M. LOPS  
L. PINTO  
G. ROTOLI

CNR Frascati

F. FULIGNI  
V. IAFOLLA  
G. NATALE

Instituto de Fisica <sup>1</sup>- USP, Instituto Astronomico e Geofisico<sup>2</sup> - USP,  
Centro Basileiro de Pesquisas Fisicas<sup>3</sup> - CNPQ, Observatorio  
Nacional- CNPQ<sup>4</sup>, Instituto de Fisica GW- UniCAMP.<sup>5</sup>

M. S. D. CATTANI<sup>1</sup>  
J. A. F. DE FREITAS PACHECO<sup>2</sup>  
C. O. ESCOBAR<sup>1</sup>  
C.A. GÁLVAO<sup>3</sup>  
N.O. SANTOS<sup>4</sup>  
A. TURTELLI JR<sup>5</sup>  
W. VELLOSO<sup>2,\*</sup>

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et de Cosmologie Relativiste  
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Groupe d'Astrophysique  
Relativiste  
Observatoire de Meudon

T. DAMOUR  
S. BONAZZOLA  
J.A. MARCK  
Y. GOURGHIOLON

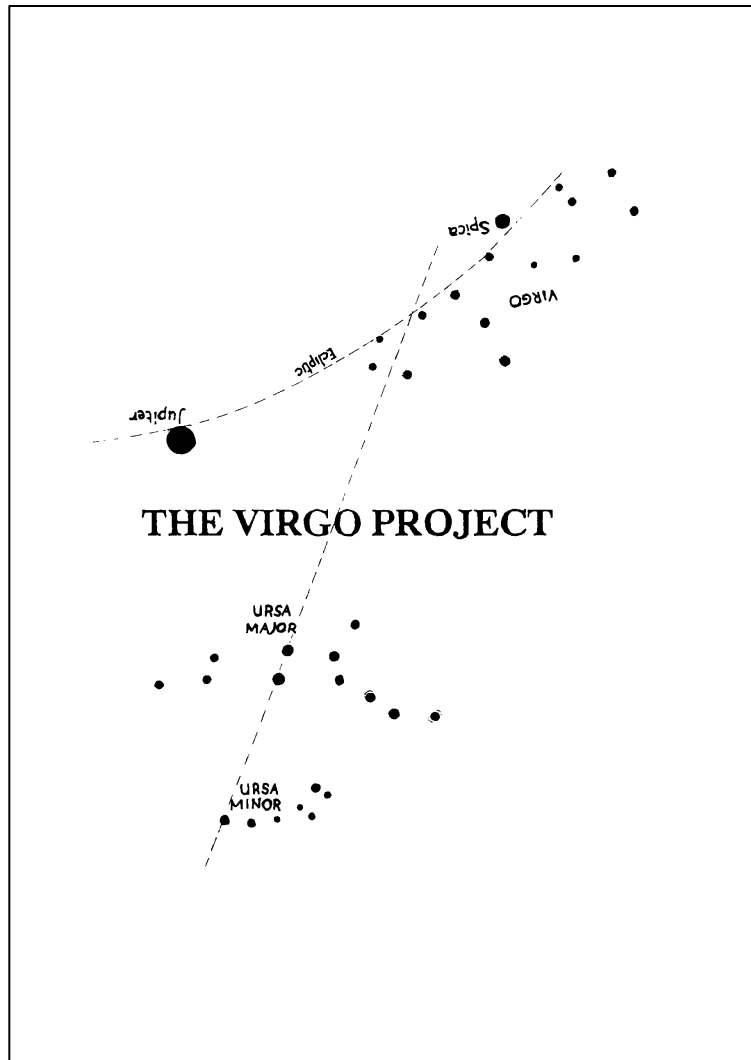
University of Illinois  
at Urbana, USA

L.E. HOLLOWAY

\* Present address: INFN laboratory, via vecchia livornese 582/a, Pisa, Italy

1989: Virgo proposal

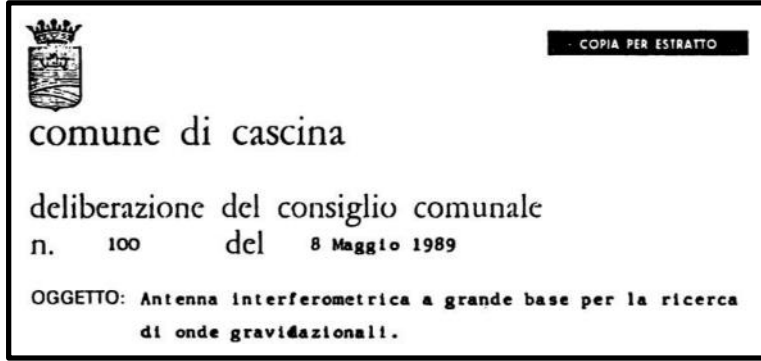
1989



VIRGO must be considered both as an experiment and as a step towards a future observatory. The immediate goal of the VIRGO experiment is to realize, or to participate in, the first detection of gravitational radiation, but it also has the long term goal of being one component of the gravitational wave detectors network which will involve other detectors in other countries, and provide data of astrophysical interest. These goals imply a collaboration with the other groups having similar projects, without excluding some competition. The group leaders from Italy, France, Germany, Scotland, and the USA have agreed to exchange all information and to collaborate on all the aspects of the construction of large interferometers in order to generate the international effort required by the birth of gravitational astronomy.

A BRILLET & A GIAZOTTO

# THE VIRGO DETECTOR SITE: CASCINA



**IL CONSIGLIO COMUNALE**

Promesso che l'Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare sezione di Pisa ha presentato un progetto di notevole interesse scientifico per la realizzazione di un'antenna interferometrica a grande base per la ricerca di onde gravitazionali da installare nel territorio del Comune di Cascina;

visto che a seguito degli incontri avuti col gruppo di ricercatori interessati, la scelta dell'area è caduta su una zona in località S.Stefano a Macerata;

che questa Amministrazione Comunale è interessata a che l'Istituto realizzi il progetto nel Comune di Cascina per la rilevanza scientifica dell'iniziativa;

dato atto che l'area interessata è prevista nel P.R.G. come zona agricola ai sensi art.31 D.P.R. N.616/1977;

a voti unanimi, resi palesemente dai n.28 Consiglieri presenti e votanti,

**D E L I B E R A**

- di esprimere parere favorevole di massima al progetto per la installazione dell'antenna interferometrica a grande base per la ricerca di onde gravitazionali, come da proposta dall'Istituto di Fisica Nucleare e dall'Università di Pisa qui allegata (N.1), da realizzare nell'area di cui alla planimetrica allegata (N.2);
- di dare atto che la presente deliberazione non è soggetta a controllo ai sensi dell'articolo unico L.R. n.44/84.



Some legal battles in the mid 90's to acquire the land for the Virgo detector



# EGO: THE EUROPEAN GRAVITATIONAL OBSERVATORY

- Created on December 11th, 2000 by its two founding members
  - CNRS for France
  - INFN for Italy
- NWO-I, the Netherlands Scientific Research Institutes became EGO associate member in March 2022
- August 2023: institutions from Belgium, Spain and Poland became Observers



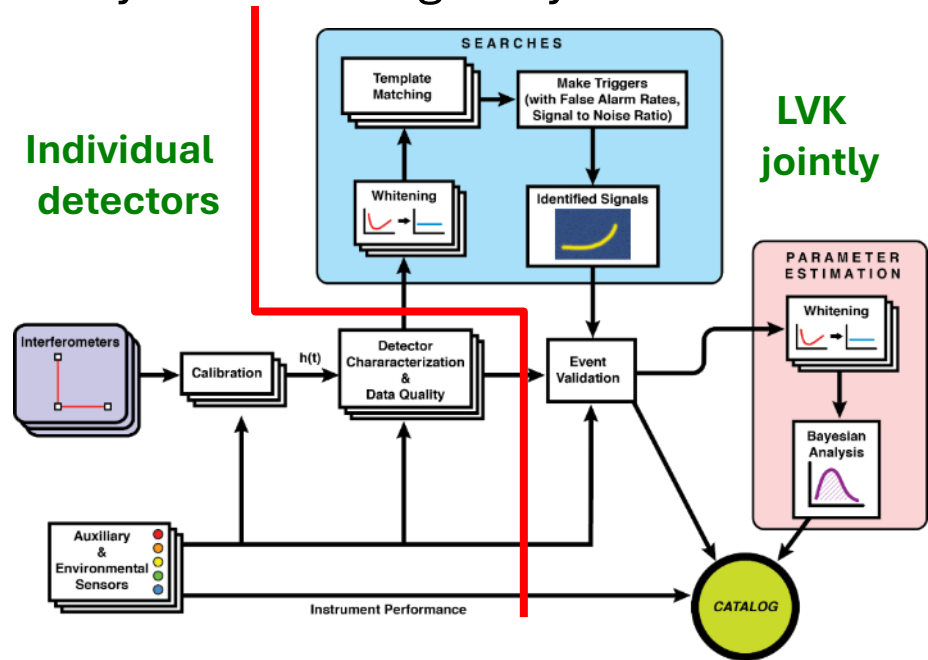
# LA PRIMA GENERAZIONE



**2005-2011**

# THE LIGO-VIRGO-KAGRA MOU

Signed in May 2007 and regularly renewed since then



Agreement extended to KAGRA in October 2019  
→ LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA (“LVK”)  
(meta)-Collaboration

Evolution foreseen from 2025 onwards  
→ “IGWN”: The International Gravitational-Wave  
Observatory Network

**Memorandum of Understanding**

between  
**VIRGO**

on one side  
and the  
**Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO)**  
on the other side

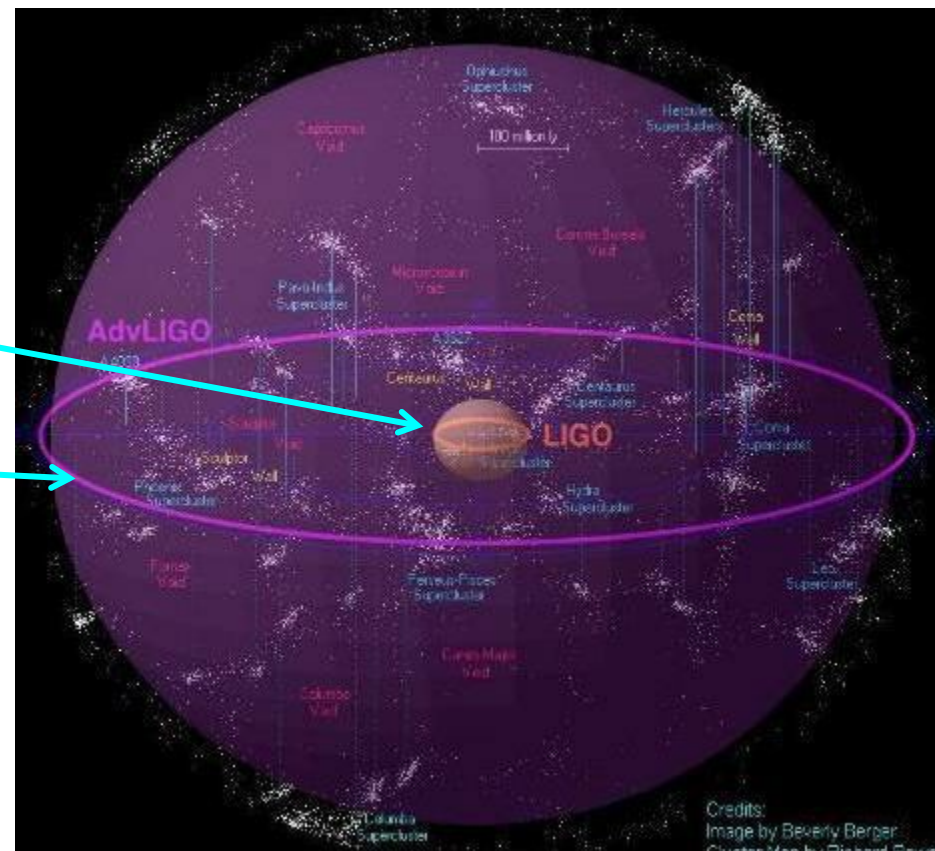
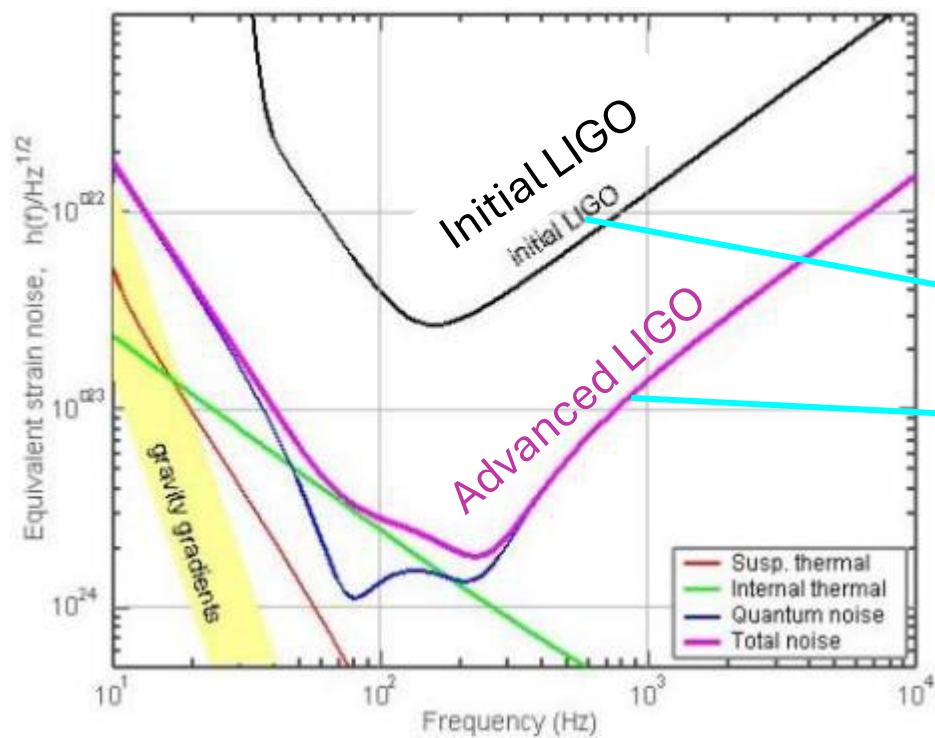
**Purpose of agreement:**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to establish and define a collaborative relationship between VIRGO on the one hand and the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO) on the other hand in the use of the VIRGO, LIGO and GEO detectors based on laser interferometry to measure the distortions of the space between free masses induced by passing gravitational waves.

We enter into this agreement in order to lay the groundwork for decades of world-wide collaboration. We intend to carry out the search for gravitational waves in a spirit of teamwork, not competition. Furthermore, we remain open to participation of new partners, whenever additional data can add to the scientific value of the search for gravitational waves. All partners in the collaborative search should have a fair share in the scientific governance of the collaborative work.

Among the scientific benefits we hope to achieve from the collaborative search are: better confidence in detection of signals, better duty cycle and sky coverage for searches, and better source position localization and waveform reconstruction. In addition, we believe that the intensified sharing of ideas will also offer additional benefits.

# LA SECONDA GENERAZIONE 'ADVANCED DETECTORS'



**2015~2030+**



# ADVANCED VIRGO

Advanced Virgo (AdV): upgrade of the Virgo interferometric detector

Participated by France and Italy (former founders of Virgo), The Netherlands, Poland, Hungary, Spain

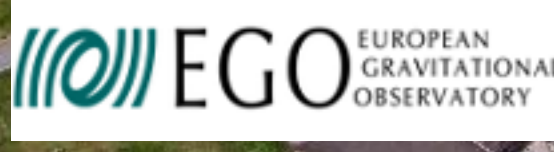
Funding approved in Dec 2009  
(21.8 ME + Nikhef in kind contribution)

Project formally completed with the start of the O2 run (1 Aug 2017)

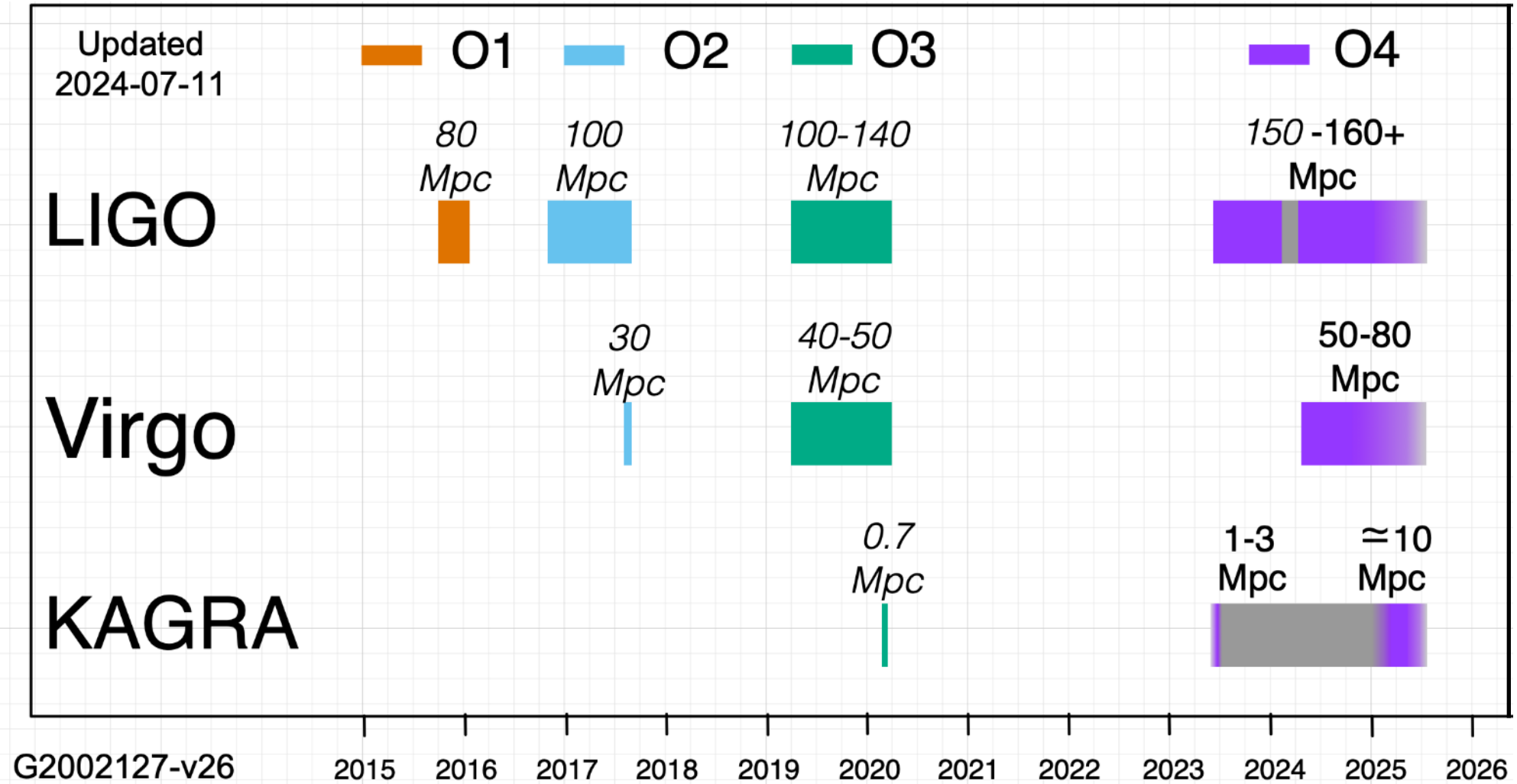
6 European countries  
21 labs, ~280 authors

APC Paris  
ARTEMIS Nice  
EGO Cascina  
INFN Firenze-Urbino  
INFN Genova  
INFN Napoli  
INFN Perugia  
INFN Pisa  
INFN Roma La Sapienza  
INFN Roma Tor Vergata  
INFN Padova  
INFN TIFPA Trento  
LAL Orsay – ESPCI Paris  
LAPP Ancecy  
LKB Paris  
LMA Lyon  
NIKHEF Amsterdam  
POLGRAU  
RADBOD Uni. Nijmegen  
RMKI Budapest  
University of Valencia

...and more have just joined:  
GSSI, Milano Bicocca,  
Torino, UniSalerno



# OBSERVING RUNS AND UPGRADE PERIODS (AND A PANDEMIC...)



# GW150914: THE FIRST DETECTION

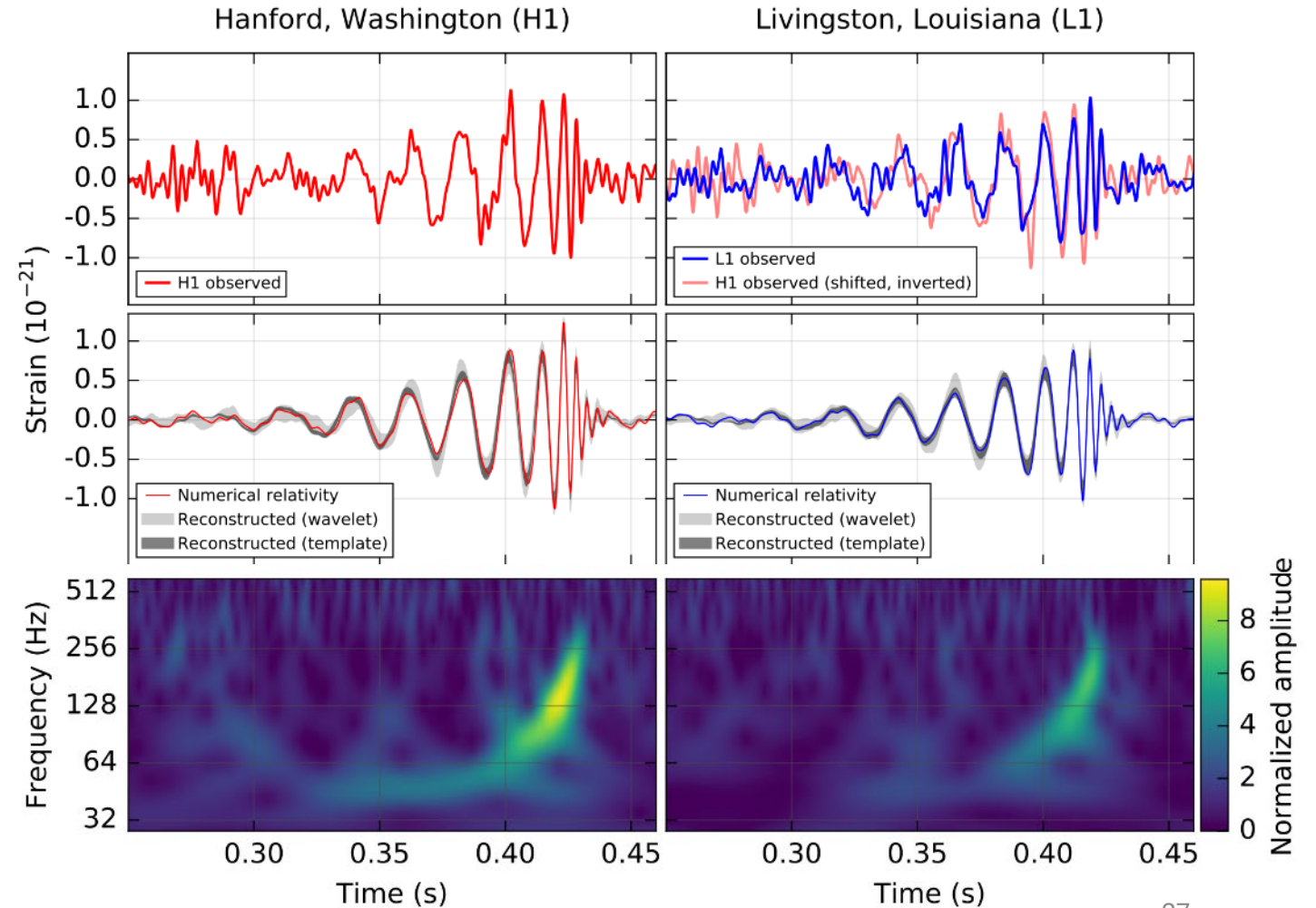
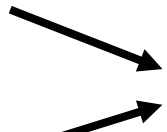
- Detected on Sep 14, 2015
- Binary Black Hole (BBH) merger about 1.4 billion years ago

➤ BH masses:

$36M_{\odot}$  Primary

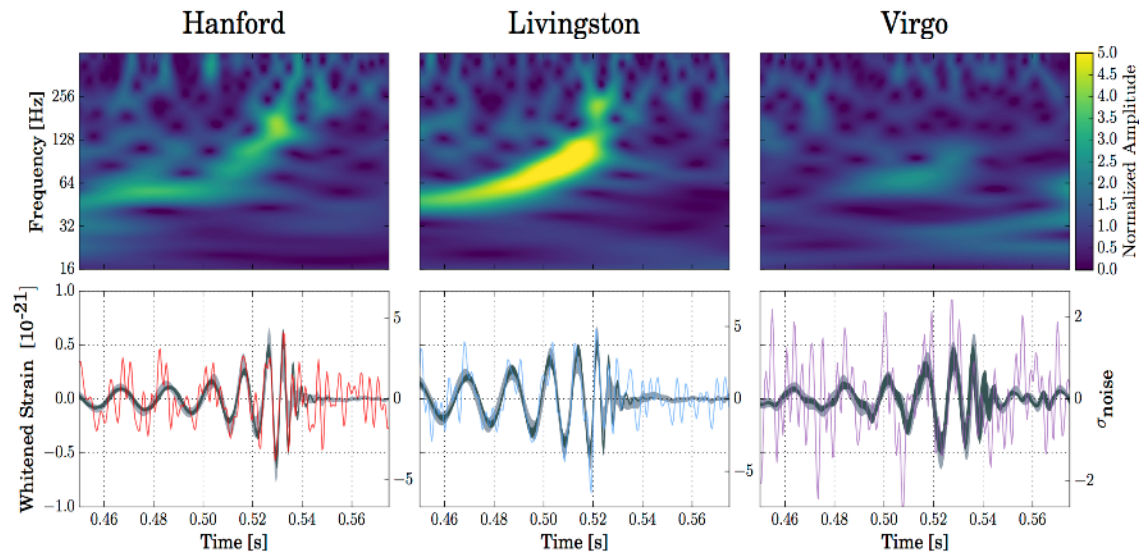
$29M_{\odot}$  Secondary

$62M_{\odot}$  Final



# GW170814: FIRST VIRGO DETECTION

- The first event seen by Virgo.
- Sky localization improved by almost a factor of 10.



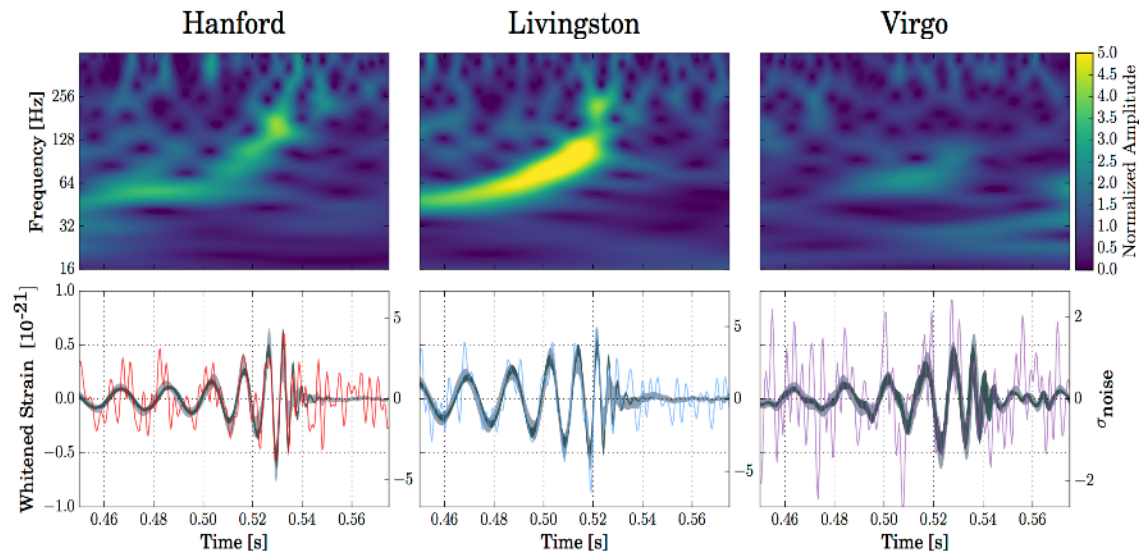
From Abbott et al. 2017, PRL 116, 061102



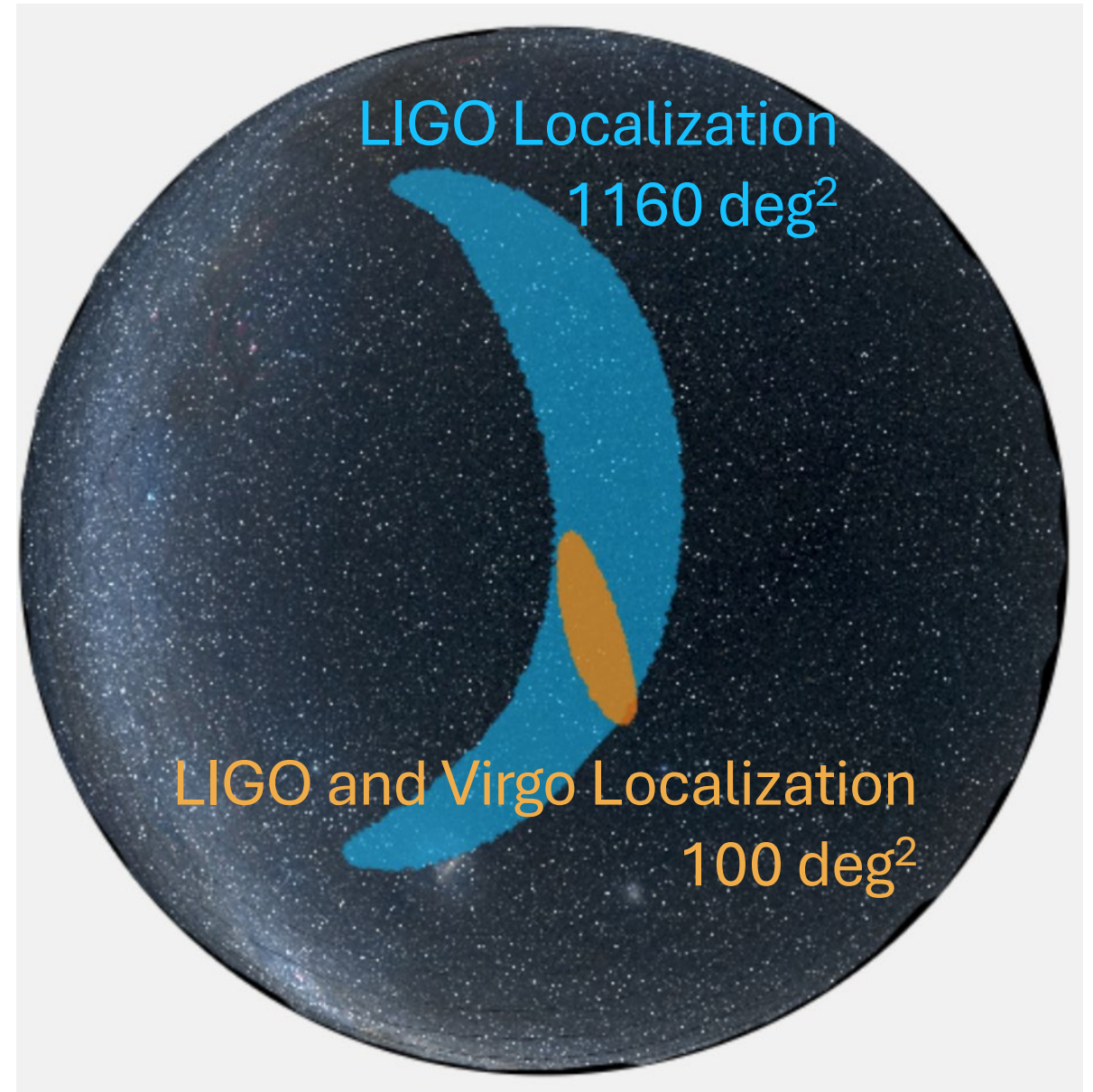
<http://www.virgo-gw.eu/skymap.html>

# GW170814: ANOTHER BBH

- The first event seen by Virgo.
- Sky localization improved by almost a factor of 10.



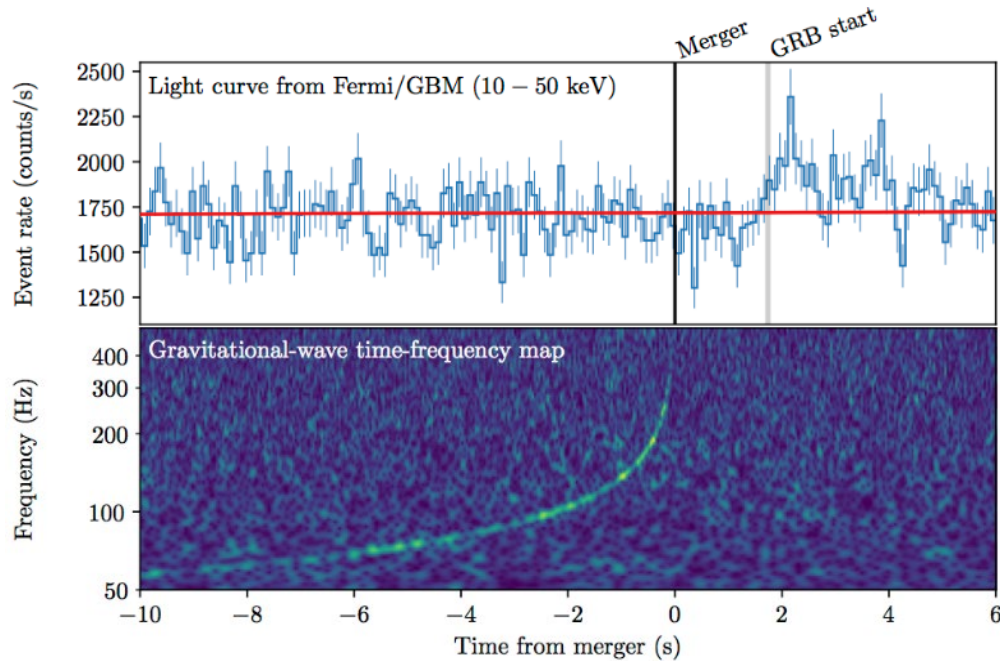
From Abbott et al. 2017, PRL 116, 061102



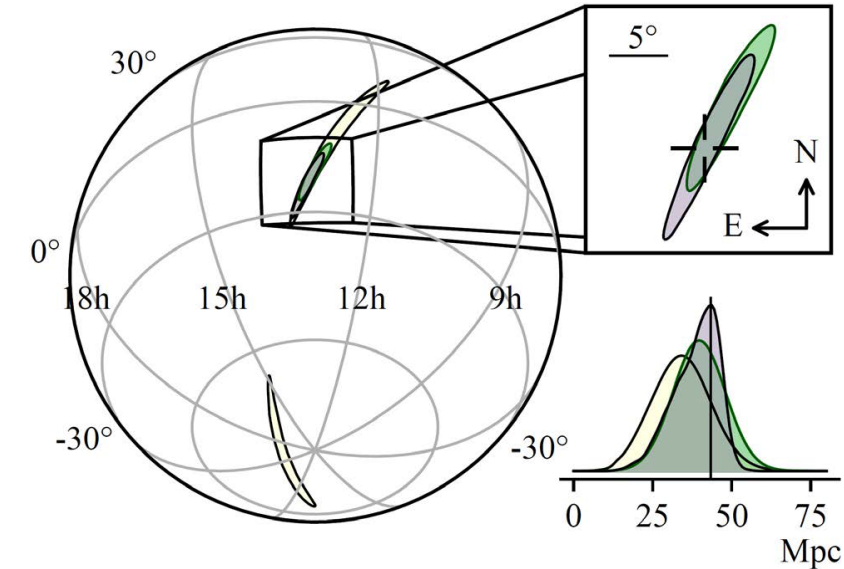
<http://www.virgo-gw.eu/skymap.html>

# GW170817: BINARY NEUTRON STAR INSPIRAL

- Associated with gamma-ray burst detected by GRB satellites ~2 seconds after the merger

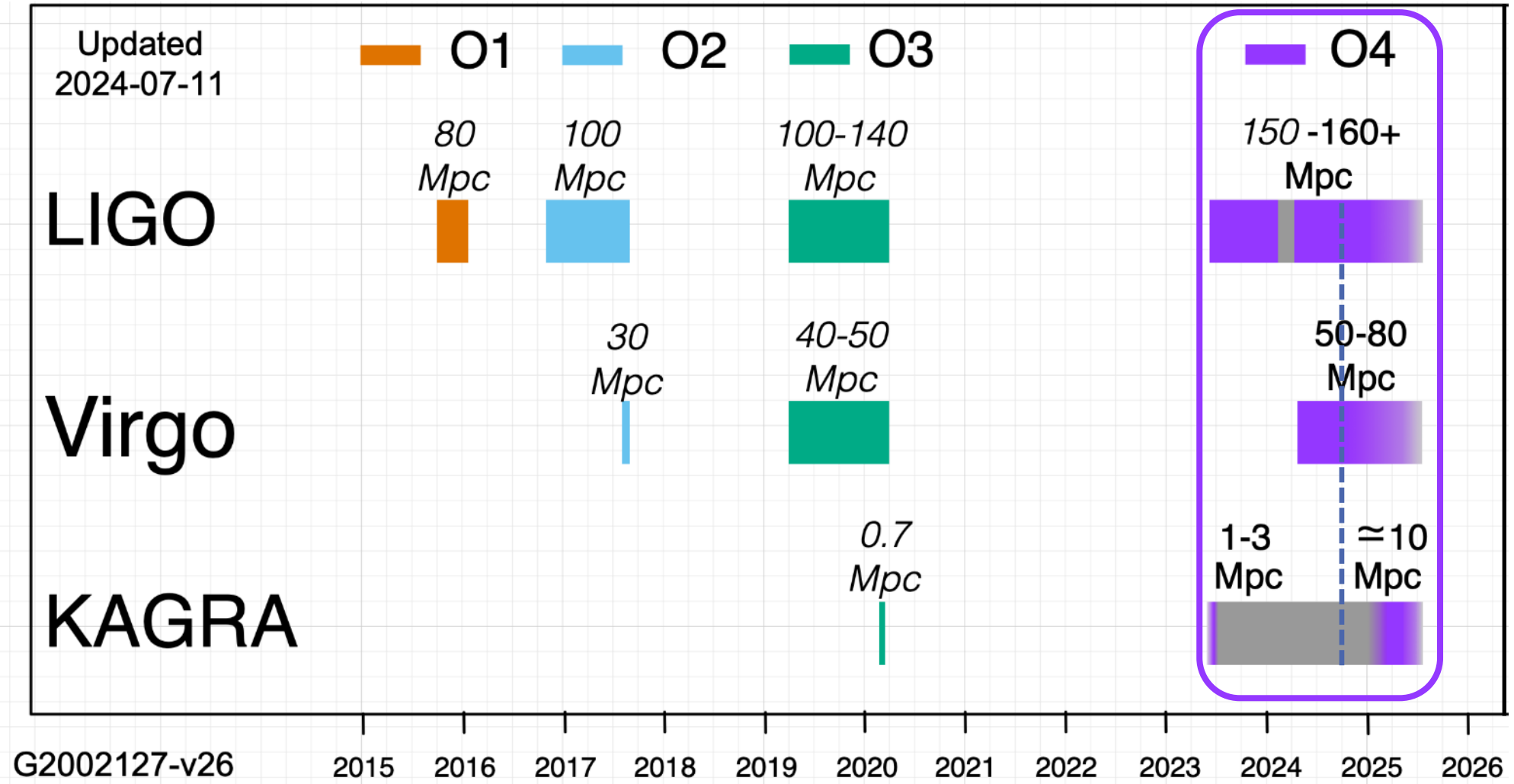


From Abbott et al. 2017, ApJL

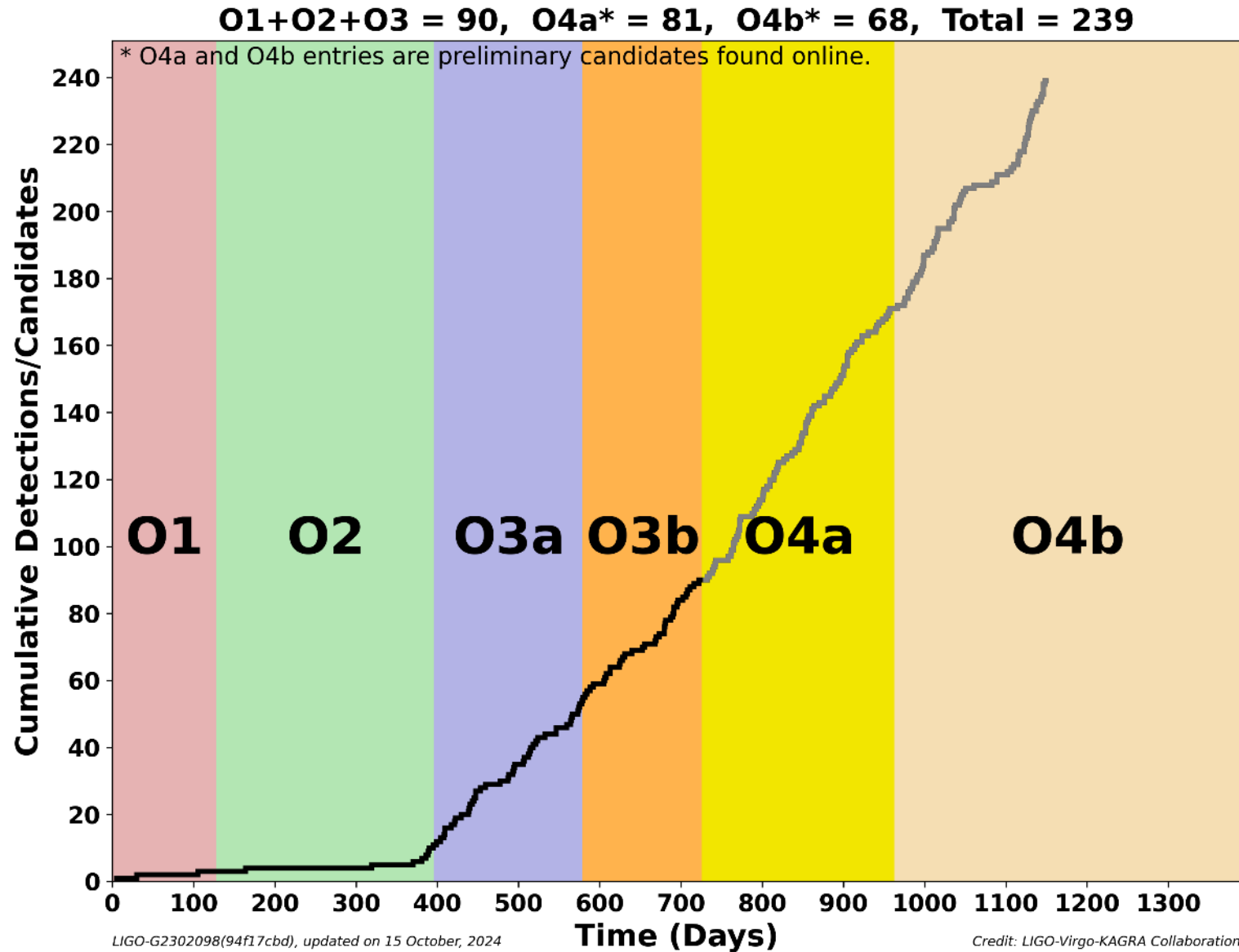


- Localization 30 deg<sup>2</sup>
- Optical counterpart was seen around 11 hours later
- Fractional difference in speed of gravity and the speed of light is between  $-3 \times 10^{-15}$  and  $7 \times 10^{-16}$
- Binary neutron star mergers produce kilonova explosions that generate heavy elements
- Different measurement of Hubble Constant

# THE FOURTH OBSERVING RUN



# A SIGNIFICANT GW EVENT CANDIDATE EVERY ~3 DAYS





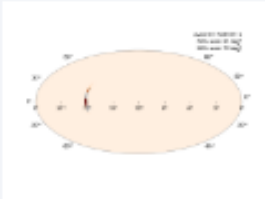
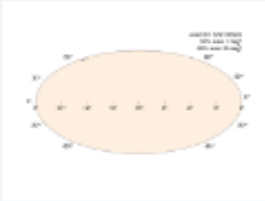
Please log in to view full database contents.

## LIGO/Virgo/KAGRA Public Alerts

- More details about public alerts are provided in the [LIGO/Virgo/KAGRA Alerts User Guide](#).
- Retractions are marked in **red**. Retraction means that the candidate was manually vetted and is no longer considered a candidate of interest.
- Less-significant events are marked in **grey**, and are not manually vetted. Consult the [LVK Alerts User Guide](#) for more information on significance in O4b.
- Less-significant events are not shown by default. Press "**Show All Public Events**" to show significant and less-significant events.

O4b Significant Detection Candidates: **68** (74 Total - 6 Retracted)

O4b Low Significance Detection Candidates: **944** (Total)

Event ID	Possible Source (Probability)	Significant	UTC	GCN	Location	FAR	Comments
S241011k	BBH (>99%)	Yes	Oct. 11, 2024 23:38:34 UTC	<a href="#">GCN Circular Query Notices   VOE</a>		1 per 1.252e+26 years	
S241009em	BBH (>99%)	Yes	Oct. 9, 2024 22:04:55 UTC	<a href="#">GCN Circular Query Notices   VOE</a>		1 per 11.246 years	

# Gravitational Wave Open Science Center

Discover Gravitational-Wave Observatory Data,  
Tutorials, and Software Tools.

Explore Data

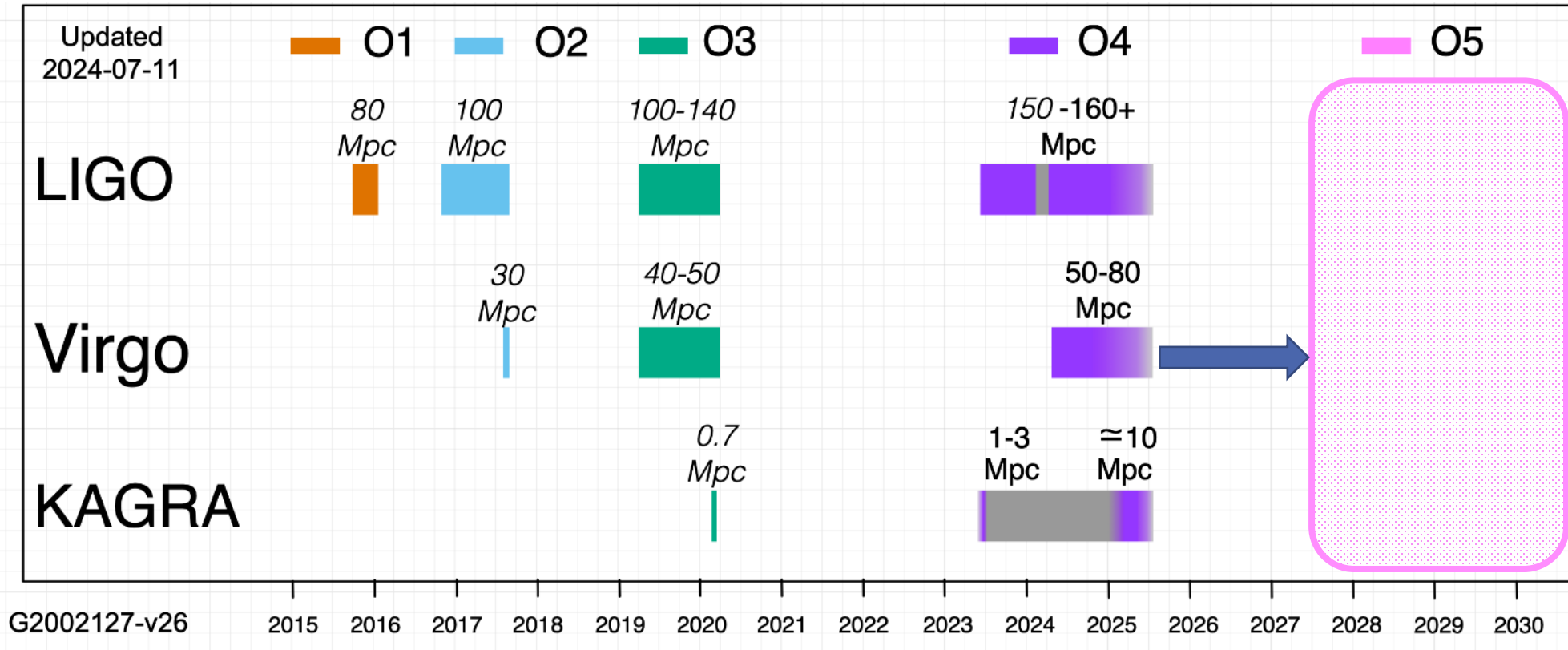
Learn

The LIGO–Virgo–KAGRA Collaboration is committed to the principles of open science

## The GW Open Science Center

- Releases gravitational-wave data Offers event catalogs
- Provides documentation and tools

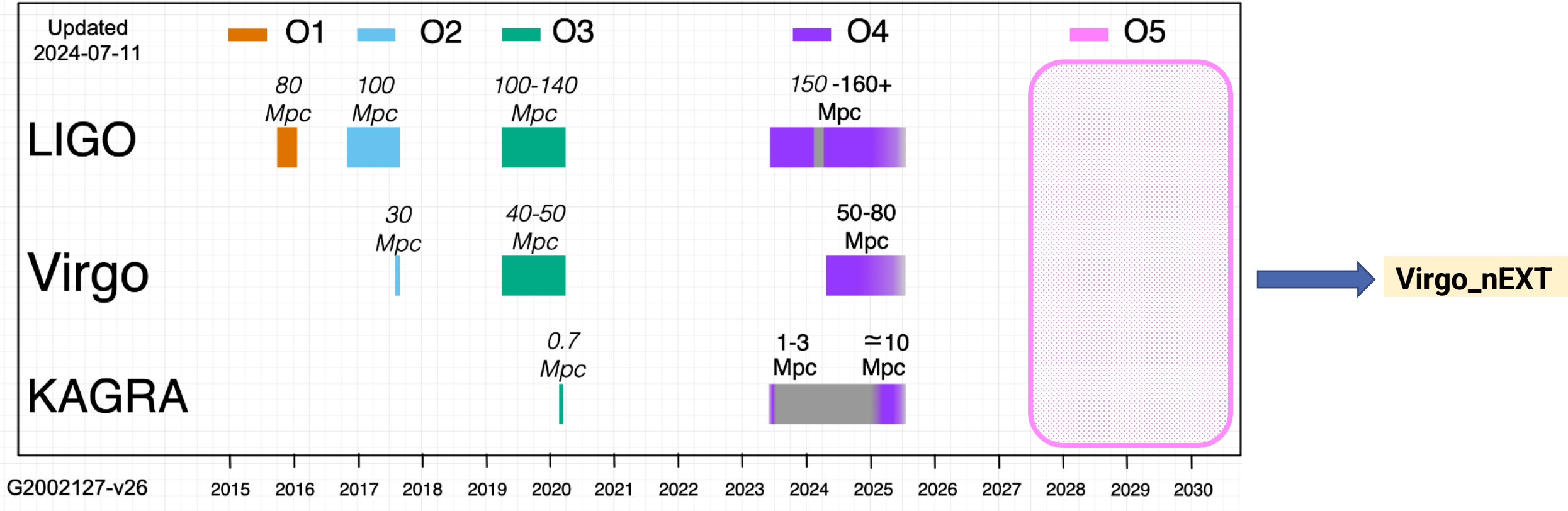
# WHAT'S NEXT?



## Plans for O5

- Goal:  $\times 1.5$  astrophysical range
- Better mirrors coatings, increase laser power, more robust optical layout...

# WHAT'S NEXT?



## Post-O5

- Goal: another  $\times 2$  astrophysical range
- Target: early 2030's

## VIRGO\_NEXT: A STEP TOWARDS ET

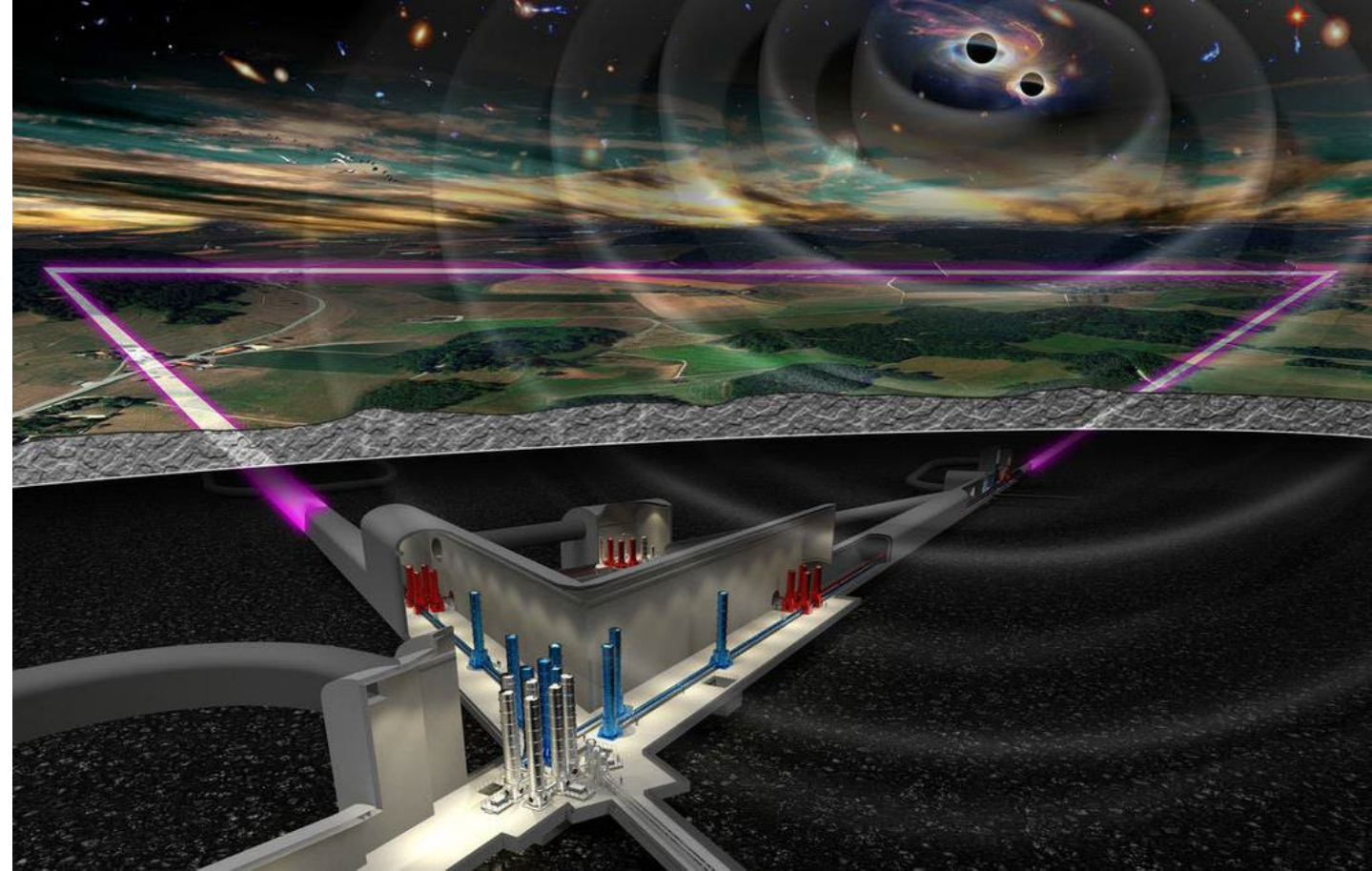
ET pioneered the idea of a 3rd generation GW observatory:

- longer baseline, flexibility due to new facility and innovative technologies

V\_nEXT core technology is essentially ET-HF technology

- Higher arm power, improved squeezing, fused silica heavy masses and 1064nm wavelength

**From ET perspective, V\_nEXT is a pathfinder for ET(-HF) technology, greatly reducing risks of not achieving design parameters**

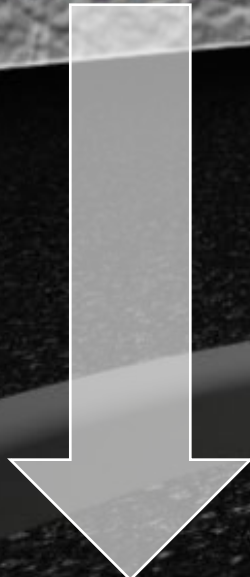


# EINSTEIN TELESCOPE

←  $\geq 10\text{km}$  →



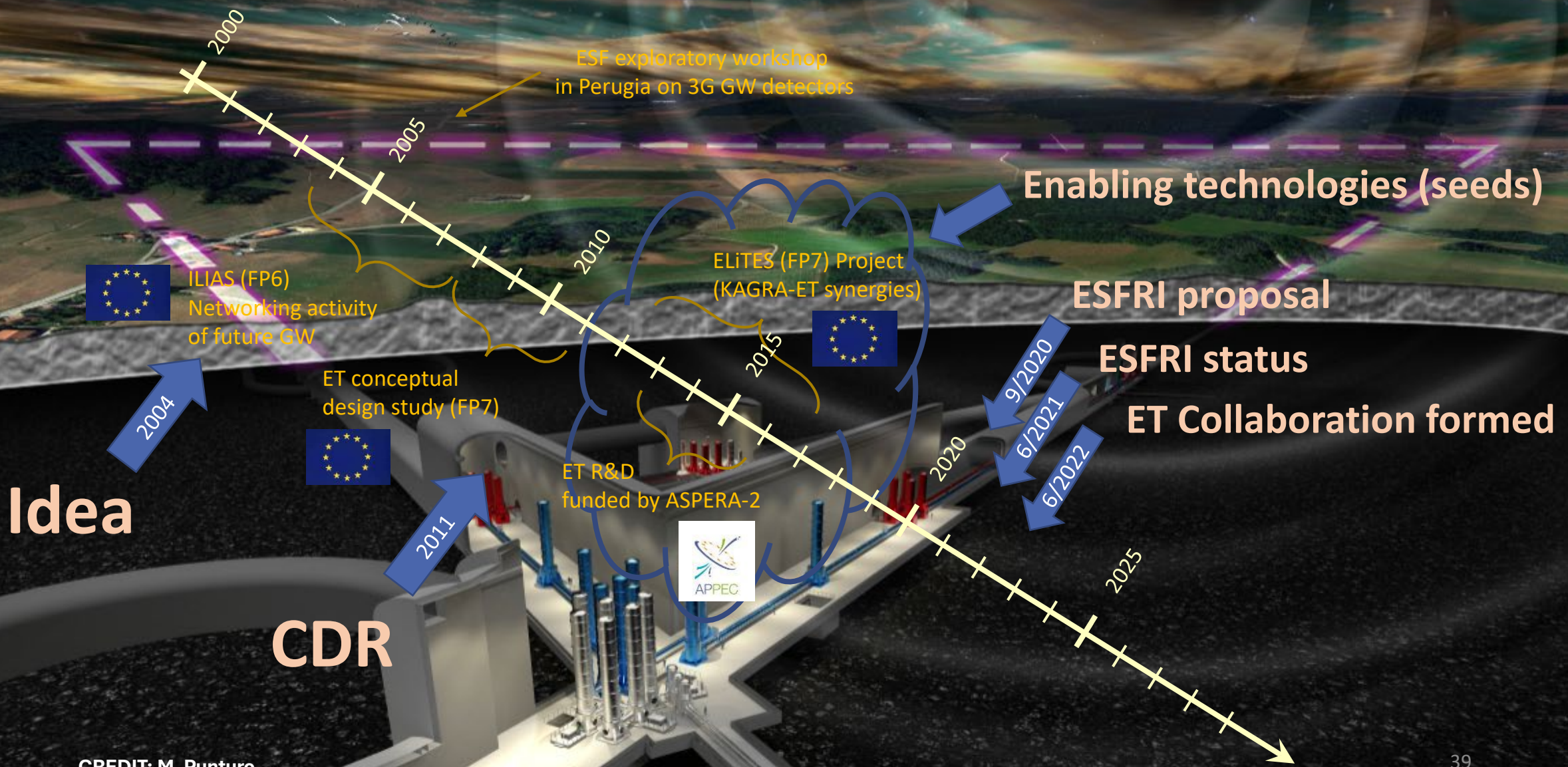
Corner halls  
depth about  
200m



ET pioneered the idea of a 3rd generation GW observatory:

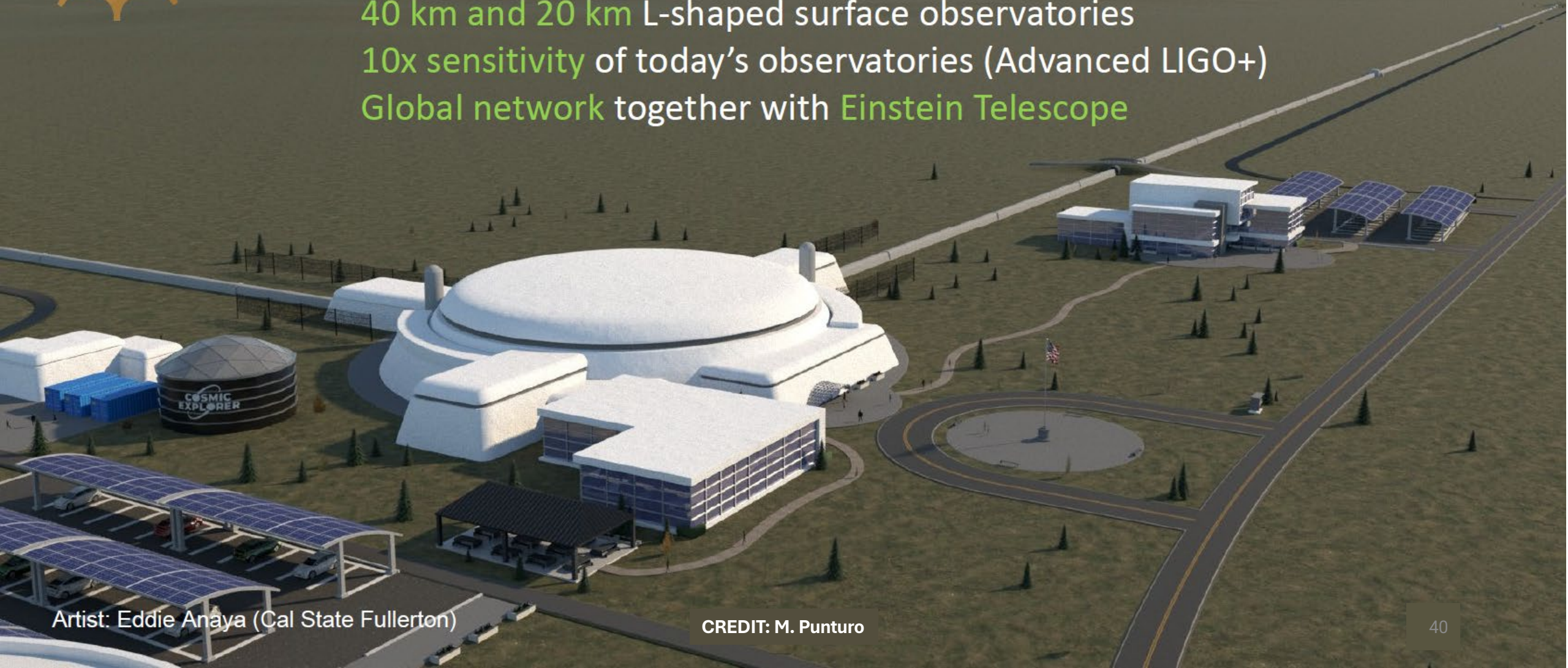
- A new infrastructure capable to host future upgrades for decades without limiting the observation capabilities
- A sensitivity at least 10 times better than the (nominal) advanced detectors on a large fraction of the (detection) frequency band
- **A dramatic improvement in sensitivity in the low frequency (few Hz – 10Hz) range**
- **High reliability** and improved observation capability
- **Polarisation disentanglement**

# ET: A LONG PATH

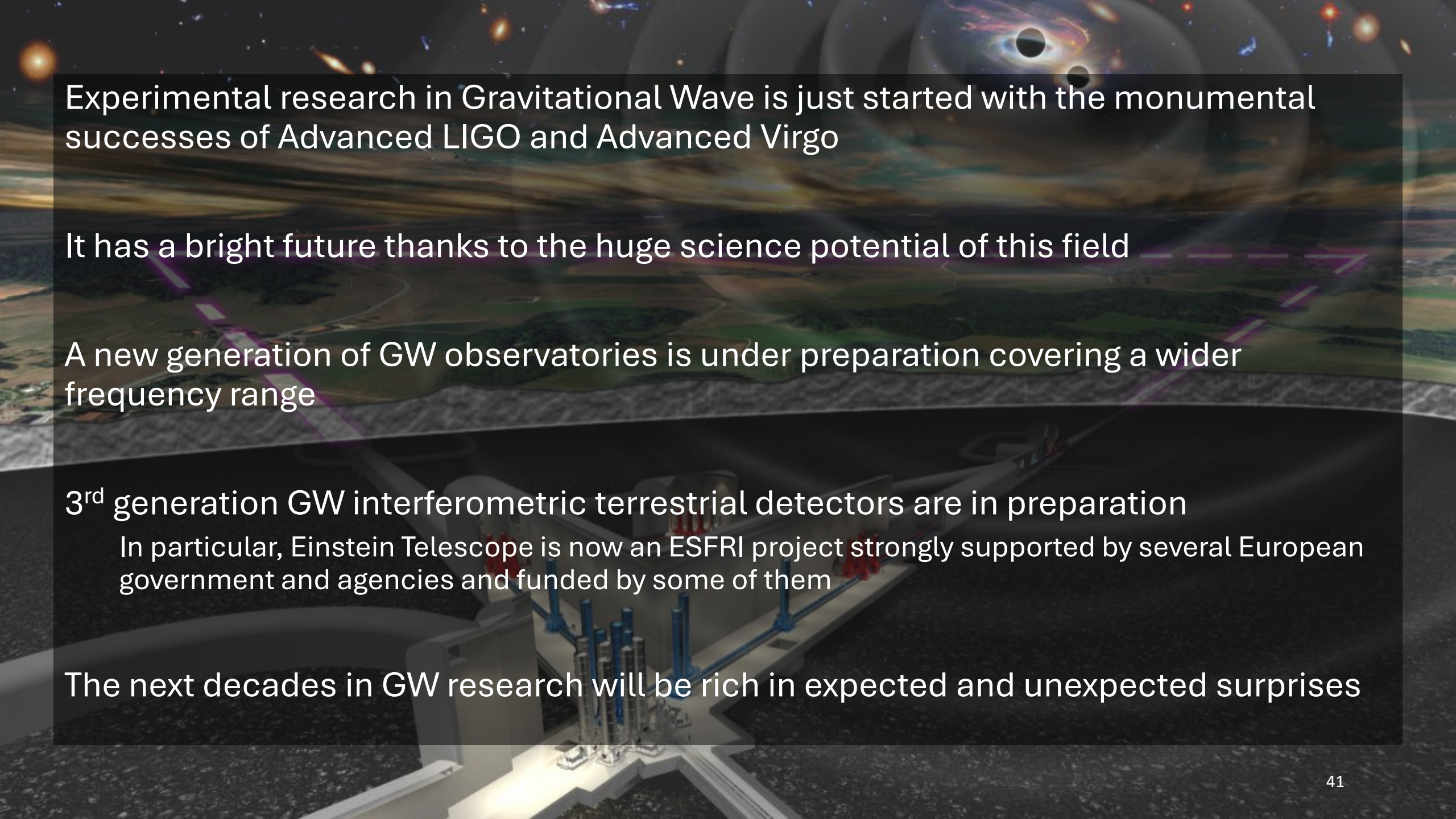




40 km and 20 km L-shaped surface observatories  
10x sensitivity of today's observatories (Advanced LIGO+)  
Global network together with Einstein Telescope







Experimental research in Gravitational Wave is just started with the monumental successes of Advanced LIGO and Advanced Virgo

It has a bright future thanks to the huge science potential of this field

A new generation of GW observatories is under preparation covering a wider frequency range

3<sup>rd</sup> generation GW interferometric terrestrial detectors are in preparation

In particular, Einstein Telescope is now an ESFRI project strongly supported by several European government and agencies and funded by some of them

The next decades in GW research will be rich in expected and unexpected surprises