



INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

KAGRA JOINS THE GLOBAL NETWORK FOR THE SEARCH OF GRAVITATIONAL WAVES

The gravitational observatories VIRGO (in operation in Italy at the European Gravitational Observatory, EGO), LIGO (two twin detectors in Louisiana and in the state of Washington, USA) and the Japanese

KAGRA have signed a scientific collaboration agreement that covers scientific collaboration, including joint observation of gravitational waves and data sharing, for the coming years.

KAGRA is a gravitational-wave observatory developed in Japan under the leadership of the University of Tokyo's Institute for Cosmic Ray Research (ICRR) with contributions from the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ) and the High Energy Accelerator Research Organization (KEK). Construction started in 2010, and now the highly-sensitive instrument is nearing readiness to join VIRGO and LIGO, the interferometers that led to the discovery of gravitational waves and the birth of multimessenger astronomy. The three detectors are taking data since April 2019 for the third observation campaign called O3, that will last one year.

The agreement signed is a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), valid until 2023, and foresees the possible extension of the collaboration with the inclusion of new scientific observers. Furthermore, from 2025 LIGO India should become part of the network for the observation of gravitational waves from the Earth as well. ■