

FEBRUARY 11th: Scientists to provide an update on the search for gravitational waves

100 years after Einstein predicted the existence of gravitational waves, the European Gravitational Observatory (EGO) and the VIRGO Collaboration invite the scientific community at the EGO site in Cascina, Pisa (Italy) for an update on efforts to detect them.

Cascina (Pisa, Italy) – Journalists are invited to join the site of the European Gravitational Observatory as it brings together the scientists from the VIRGO Collaboration this Thursday, February 11 at 16:30 p.m. for a status report on the effort to detect gravitational waves – or ripples in the fabric of spacetime – from the VIRGO-LIGO scientific collaborations.

On the same date a simultaneous event organised by the LIGO Scientific Collaboration will take place in Washington, D.C. in the USA.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the first publication of Albert Einstein's prediction of the existence of gravitational waves. With interest in this topic piqued by the centennial, and rumors swirling about whether the LIGO - VIRGO teams have detected these waves, the groups will discuss their ongoing efforts to observe and measure cosmic gravitational waves for scientific research.

WHEN: Feb. 11, 2016 - 16:30 p.m. CET

WHERE:

EGO Observatory
Building 4, Auditorium
Via E. Amaldi
56021 – Cascina, Santo Stefano a Macerata (Pisa), Italy

MEDIA RSVP: Due to seating constraints, interested journalists should RSVP to any of the media contacts listed below:

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SHUTTLE SERVICE

EGO provides a shuttle service departing from Florence Santa Maria Novella (main rail station) at 11.30 am. You need to book in advance this service. Please contact:

Communication office: severine.perus@ego-gw.it Tel: +39 050752325

LIVE WEBCAST:

For press not based in Italy this event will be simulcast live online. For details about how to participate remotely, please contact:

EGO Information Technology: antonella.bozzi@ego-gw.it, Tel. +39 050752540

For additional background about the project, you may be interested in this website:
<http://public.virgo-gw.eu/language/en/>

The Virgo interferometer is a 3 km interferometer installed at Cascina, near Pisa, and the Virgo research is carried out by the VIRGO Collaboration, consisting of more than 250 physicists and engineers belonging to 19 different European research groups: 6 from *Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique* (CNRS) in France; 8 from the *Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare* (INFN) in Italy; 2 in the Netherlands with Nikhef; the Wigner Institute in Hungary; the POLGRAW group in Poland and the European Gravitational Observatory (EGO).

LIGO, a system of two identical detectors, was conceived and built by MIT and Caltech researchers and funded by the National Science Foundation in the United States, with significant contributions from other U.S. and international partners. The twin detectors are located in Livingston, Louisiana, and Hanford, Washington.

The research and the analysis of the data from all detectors are carried out jointly by a global group of scientists, including the LIGO Scientific Collaboration and the VIRGO Collaboration.