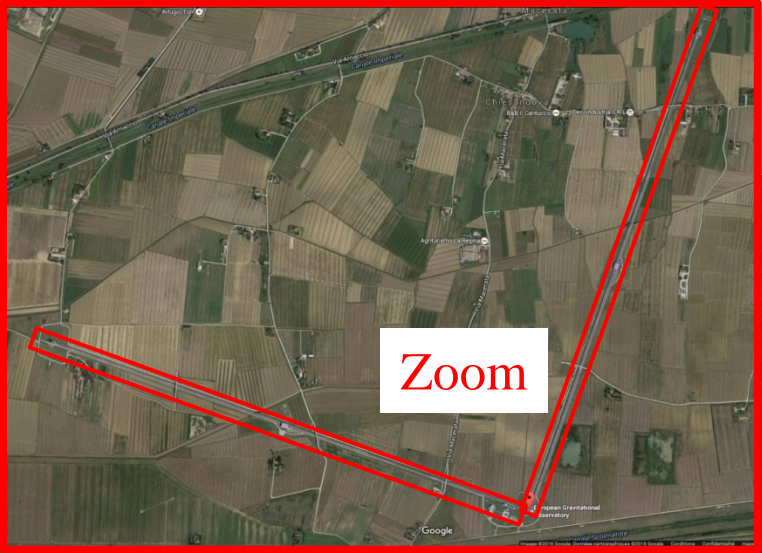


The Virgo site

Leaning Tower of Pisa

Pisa airport
Runway length: 3 km



Virgo

European Gravitational Observatory

The Virgo Collaboration

- 6 European countries



- 21 laboratories

- About 300 members (LIGO : 750)



The Virgo Collaboration

- 6 European countries



- 21 laboratories

- About 300 members (LIGO: 750)

- Virgo was built by 11 **CNRS** (France) and **INFN** (Italy) laboratories

- Budget: ~150 M€
- Groups from the Netherlands, Poland, Hungary and Spain joined later the project

- Advanced Virgo funding: ~20 M€

- Plus in-kind contribution from NIKHEF

- The **EGO** (European Gravitational Observatory) consortium is managing the Virgo site in Cascina. It provides the infrastructures and resources to ensure the detector construction and operation

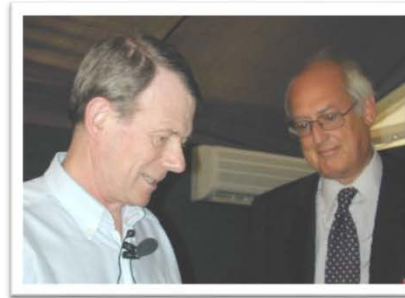
APC Paris
ARTEMIS Nice
EGO Cascina
INFN Firenze-Urbino
INFN Genova
INFN Napoli
INFN Perugia
INFN Pisa
INFN Roma La Sapienza
INFN Roma Tor Vergata
INFN Padova
INFN TIFPA
LAL Orsay – ESPCI Paris
LAPP Annecy
LKB Paris
LMA Lyon
NIKHEF Amsterdam
POLGRAW (Poland)
RADBOUD Uni. Nijmegen
RMKI Budapest
Valence University

VIRGO TIMELINES

- 1985: Alain Brillet (CNRS, France) and Adalberto Giazotto (INFN, Italy) start collaborating
- 1989: First Virgo proposal submitted
- 1994: Project approved by CNRS and INFN
- 1996: Site construction starts in Cascina, near Pisa (Tuscany)



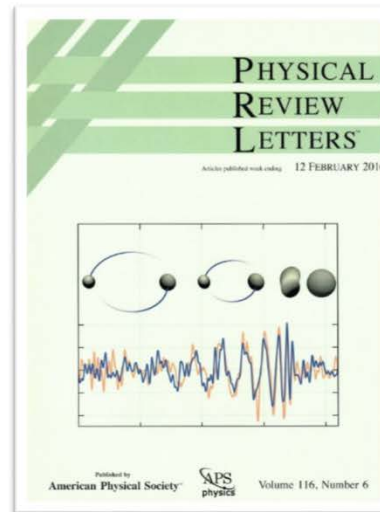
Aerial view of the site construction near Cascina (Italy)



Left: A. Brillet, right: A. Giazotto

- May 2007: Creation of the LIGO-Virgo Collaboration, signature of an agreement on the full sharing of data, joint data analysis and common publications
- 2007-2011: Data-taking periods for the initial Virgo detector
- 2011-2016: Pluriannual upgrade program leading to the second generation detector: Advanced Virgo
- 2015: First detection of gravitational waves by LIGO and Virgo
- 2016-2017: Advanced Virgo commissioning
- August 2017: Advanced Virgo joint data-taking with LIGO
- September 27, 2017: announcement of the first three detectors observation of gravitational waves

- December 2001: Creation of the European Gravitational Observatory by CNRS and INFN
- 2003: End of site construction and inauguration
- 2006: The Netherlands (Nikhef Institute) join the Virgo Collaboration – followed later by Poland (IMPAN), Hungary (Wigner Institute) and Spain (University of Valencia)



Cover of the Gravitational Waves detection paper published on February 12, 2016



Virgo from the sky

