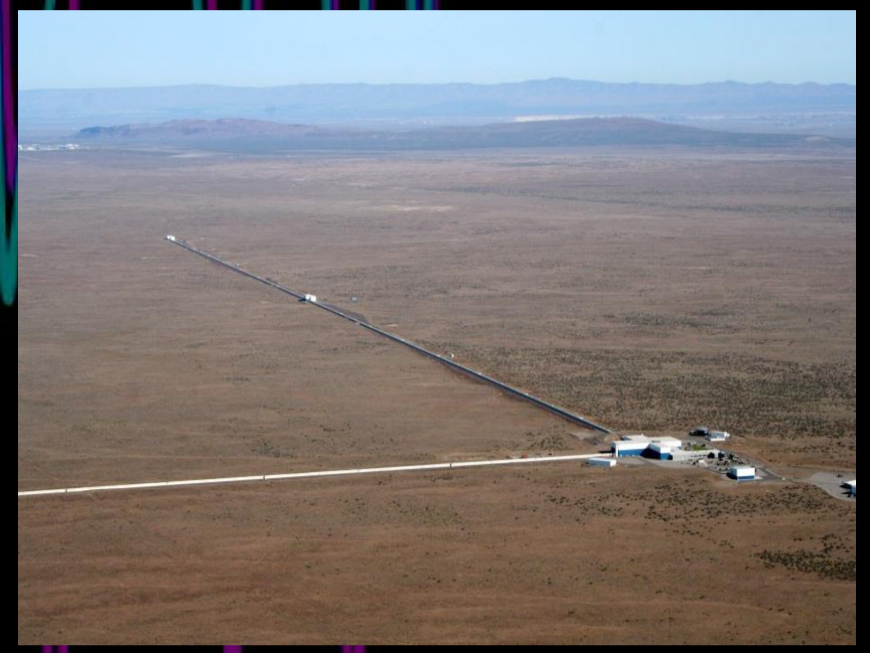


# “We have detected gravitational waves. We did it!”

Prof David Reitze, LIGO Executive Director  
Washington DC, 11 February 2016

On Sep 14<sup>th</sup> 2015 the **LIGO Hanford** and **LIGO Livingston** Observatories made the first ever direct detection of **gravitational waves**, from the merger of two massive **black holes** 1.3 billion light years from the Earth.



This remarkable discovery, finally confirming the 1916 prediction of **Albert Einstein**, has been widely hailed as the **scientific breakthrough of the century**, opening up a **completely different way** to explore the cosmos.

*Don't underestimate the power  
of the dark side...*

The **gravitational-wave power** released during the final moments of the black hole merger was more than **ten times** the combined light power of **all the stars and galaxies** in the observable universe.

Image credit: SXS/LIGO

To find out more about the amazing science and technology of the **Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory**, visit our website at:

[www.ligo.org](http://www.ligo.org)

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