

The Nobel Prize In Physics 2017

Rainer Weiss, Barry C. Barish, Kip S. Thorne

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Press Release: The Nobel Prize in Physics 2017

3 October 2017

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has decided to award the Nobel Prize In Physics 2017 with one half to

Rainer Weiss

LIGO/VIRGO Collaboration

and the other half jointly to

Barry C. Barish

LIGO/VIRGO Collaboration

and

Kip S. Thorne

LIGO/VIRGO Collaboration

"for decisive contributions to the LIGO detector and the observation of gravitational waves"

Gravitational waves finally captured

On 14 September 2015, the universe's gravitational waves were observed for the very first time. The waves, which were predicted by Albert Einstein a hundred years ago, came from a collision between two black holes. It took 1.3 billion years for the waves to arrive at the LIGO detector in the USA.

The signal was extremely weak when it reached Earth, but is already promising a revolution in astrophysics. Gravitational waves are an entirely new way of observing the most violent events in space and testing the limits of our knowledge.

LIGO, the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory, is a collaborative project with over one thousand researchers from more than twenty countries. Together, they have realised a vision that is almost fifty years old. The 2017