

# Cosmic Explorer Status

David Shoemaker  
for the CE Project



**COSMIC  
EXPLORER**

**CE-G2500050**

Artists: Edward Anaya, Virginia Kitchen,  
and Angela Nguyen (Cal State Fullerton)



# High-Level View

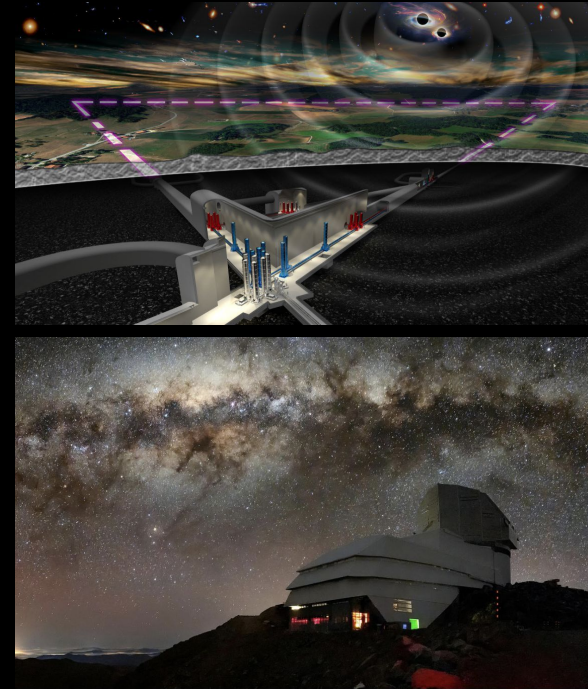
Cosmic Explorer is the US concept for a next-gen gravitational-wave observatory

- 40 km and 20 km L-shaped surface observatories
- 1064 nm @ room temperature
- roughly 10x sensitivity of today's observatories
- Element of global network with ET, LIGO-India, and MMA

CE is based on, and an evolution from, LIGO

- LIGO-Like observatory and initial detector
- NSF Supported Conceptual Design underway
  - vacuum technology research, site evaluation and responsible siting, detector optical design, mode sensing and control, project management/systems engineering

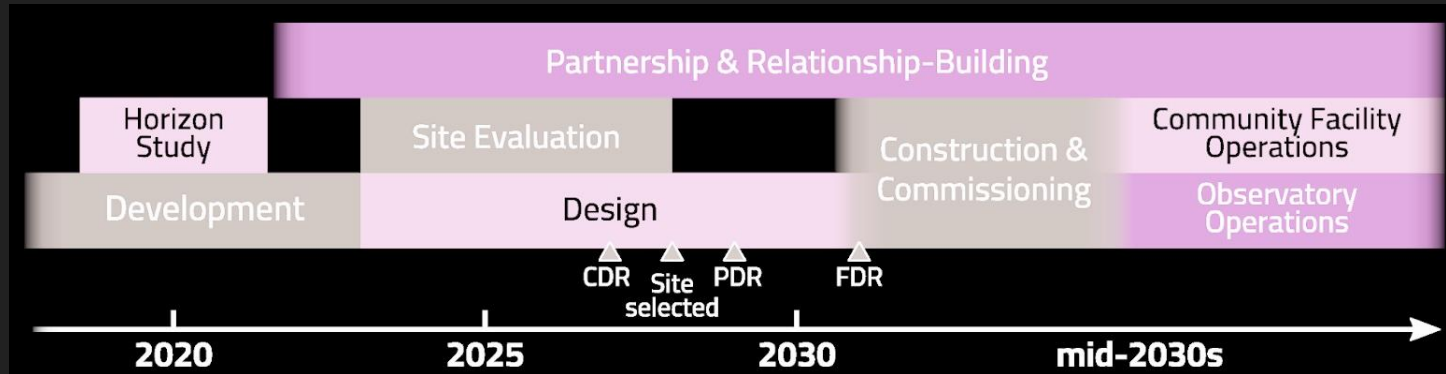
NSF processes define the possible CE funding path and project timeline



# Cosmic Explorer Timeline



- Plan for Project evolution
  - Conceptual Design (3+years)
  - Preliminary Design ~\$75M (2-3 years)
  - Final Design ~\$100M (2 years)
  - Construction ~\$1-2B (5 years)
  - Operations ~\$60M / year (50 years?)
  - Decommissioning/Divestment



[https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?ods\\_key=nsf21107](https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf21107)





Figure 1 is a plot showing the evolution of gravitational wave sources in the  $z$ - $M$  plane. The x-axis represents the Total Binary Mass  $[M_\odot]$  on a logarithmic scale from 1 to 1000. The y-axis represents Redshift  $z$  on a logarithmic scale from 0.01 to 1000. The plot is divided into several regions and features:

- Regions:**
  - Neutron Stars:** A yellow shaded region at low masses and low redshifts.
  - Black Holes:** A grey shaded region at higher masses and redshifts.
  - Primordial Black Holes:** A magenta shaded region at high masses and high redshifts.
  - NSBH:** A red shaded region between Neutron Stars and Black Holes.
  - GRBs:** A yellow shaded region at low masses and low redshifts.
- Physical Limits:**
  - Facilityr Limit:** A green dashed line.
  - Newtonian:** A green solid line.
  - CE40:** A cyan solid line.
  - SNR=8, 100, 1000:** Curved lines representing signal-to-noise ratio contours.
- Key Events and Epochs:**
  - Big Bang:** Indicated at the top right.
  - CMB:** Cosmic Microwave Background.
  - Dark Ages:** Indicated at the top right.
  - Reionization:** Indicated at the top right.
  - Peak Star Formation:** Indicated at the top right.
- Gravitational Wave Events:**
  - GW170817:** A yellow star at low mass and low redshift.
  - GW150914:** A grey star at low mass and low redshift.
  - GW190521:** A grey star at low mass and low redshift.

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2306.13745>

# Cosmic Explorer Design Philosophy



LIGO – Initial, and then Advanced – established an excellent paradigm for Observatory and Instrument design. CE is an evolutionary step forward:

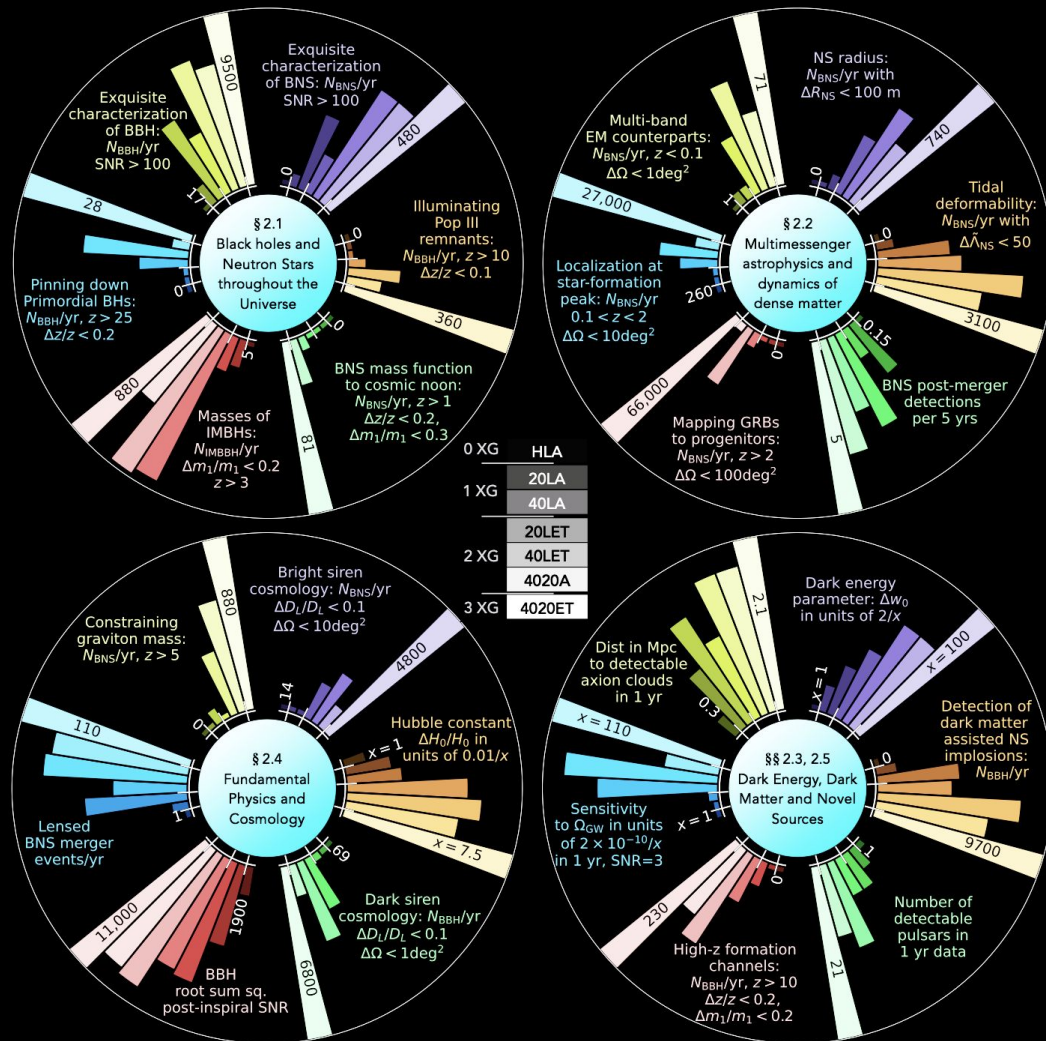
- Design of Observatory and Detector motivated by astrophysics
  - Initial/Advanced LIGO were designed at the limit of technology
  - CE has some degrees of freedom to focus on Astrophysics Goals
  - Enables a true “Science flowdown”
- Low risk for observatory configuration
  - Huge capital investment required for the Observatory
  - → Scale up LIGO
- Low risk for the initial detector
  - Must have high confidence in quick success with Initial detector
  - 50 year lifetime will allow new ideas for later detectors – Quantum/AI/Cryogenics/etc.

Objective: Justify monetary requests with strategic, clearly stated/credible, science goals

- **Science Goals:** From high-level strategy/vision documents.
- **Science Objectives:** The specific science questions we need to answer.
- **Measurement Objectives:** The specific measurements required.
- **Measurement Requirements:** What a measurement must include in terms of content, precision and quality in order to accomplish the measurement objectives.
- **Instrument Technology Requirements:** Identify technology critical for accomplishing the measurement requirements (including detector networks).
- **Data Products:** Define the output of each measurement, including likelihood, Bayesian evidence, Bayes factor, etc.

# Science Traceability Matrix

Assessing the Science Objectives





- 10x longer than LIGO
  - 40km baseline (+20km for BNS)
  - Boosts sensitivity x10
- Surface construction
  - Sacrifice some low-frequency sensitivity (Newtonian Noise)
  - Gain length, moderate the cost, maximize future flexibility
- Vacuum system in study
  - Significant NSF funding
  - Collaboration with CERN, ET

Geographical and Sociological aspects: Talks by  
Joey Key, Warren Bristol, and Laurence Datrier



Artist: Andrew Jenkins, Cal State Fullerton

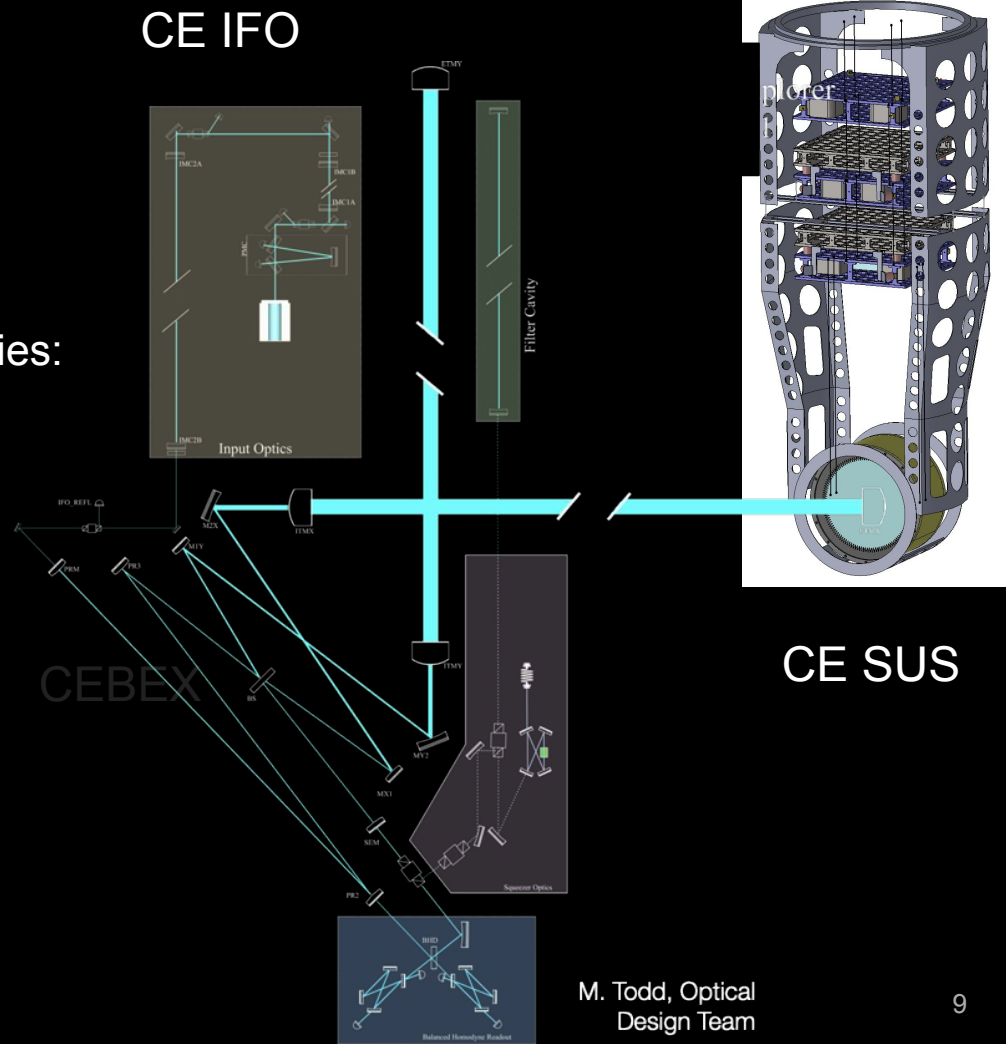


# Instrument design

LIGO as 'prototype' for CE –  
A# upgrade very directly relevant

Current Funded Conceptual Design activities:

- Optical/interferometer design
- Thermal compensation
- Stray light mitigation
- Improved optical coatings
- Lasers and squeezers
- Vibration isolation
- Gravity gradient noise mitigation
- Suspension design
- Digital Architecture



# A# as a pathfinder for Cosmic Explorer



## LIGO A#

4 km long arms

1.5 MW arm power

10 dB frequency dependent SQZ

100 kg fused silica test mass

Redesigned QUADs, 160 cm total length,  
400 kg total mass, 1.6 GPa fiber stress

2× reduction in CTN over A+ coating goal

Improved seismic isolation

2× suppression of Rayleigh wave Newtonian  
noise

## Cosmic Explorer

40 km and maybe 20 km long arms

1.5 MW arm power

10 dB frequency dependent SQZ

440 kg fused silica test mass

Nominally QUADs, 4 m total length, ~2000 kg  
total mass, 1.6 GPa fiber stress

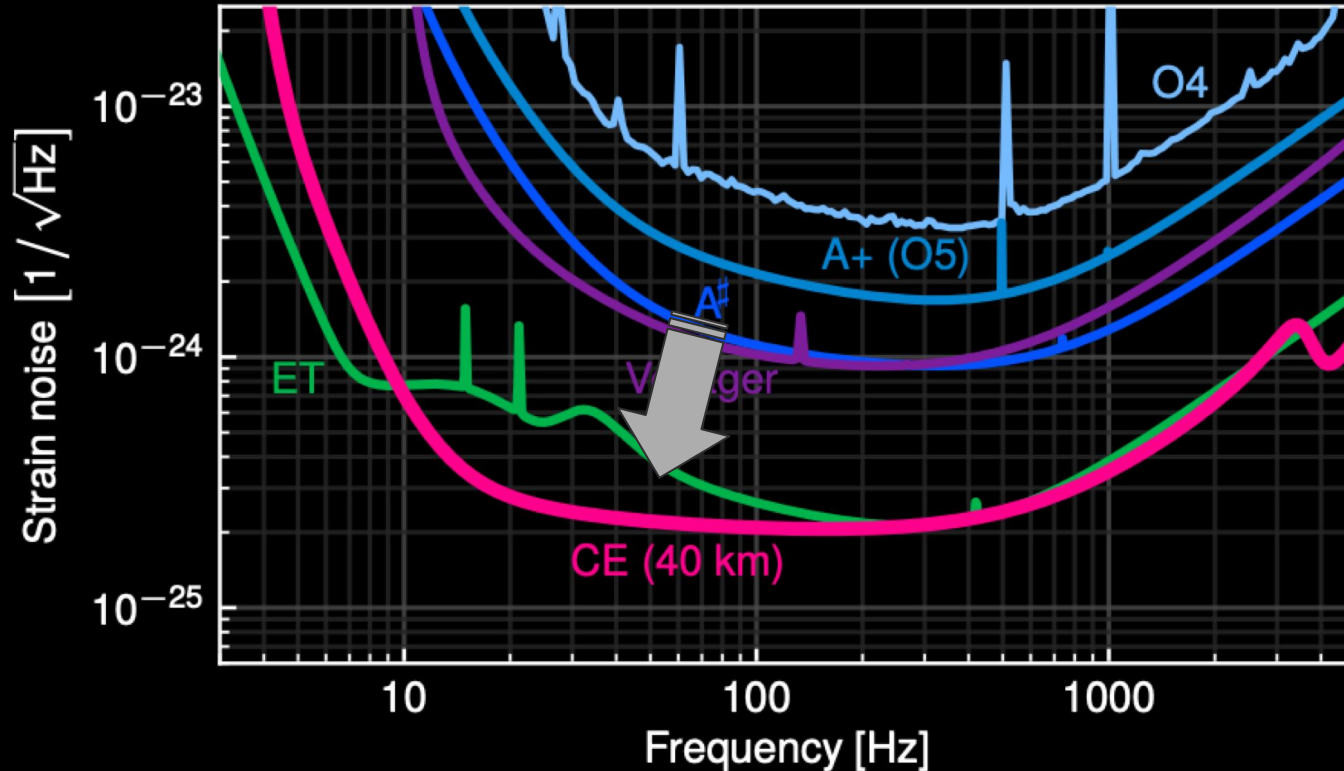
A+ coating goal

Improved seismic isolation

10× suppression of Rayleigh wave Newtonian  
noise

# Detector Sensitivity

Evolution from LIGO to A<sup>#</sup> and Cosmic Explorer

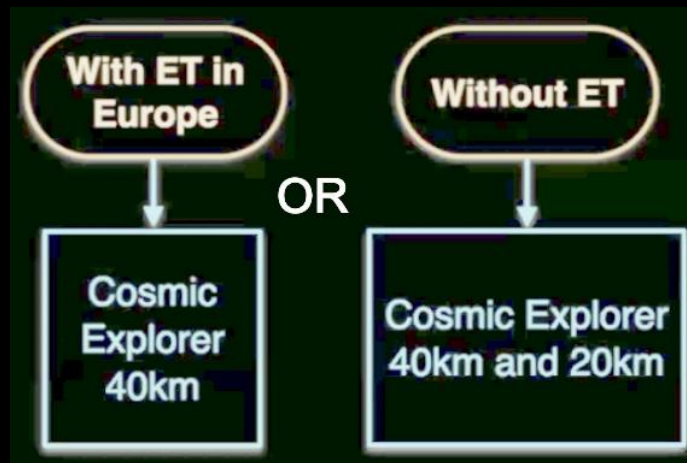


Two scenarios:

- With ET in Europe → CE40 only recommended
- Without ET in Europe → CE40+CE20 recommended
- LIGO India an important element of the Network
  - LIGO A# assumed
- *All recommendations include CE!*

What does this mean for CE?

- Continued support and planning by the NSF
- Design work will continue for CE 40km + 20km
- We are working with NSF solicit a full design proposal



credit : Kalogera et al.

[NSF MPSAC ngGW report](#)





# How can you get involved?

- Join the CE Consortium!  
<https://cosmicexplorer.org/consortium.html>
- Participate in the CE Science Calls (~monthly)  
<https://cosmicexplorer.org/sciencecalls.html>
- Join the CE Project... the next round of proposals is in the works!





## In Closing...

- We have the basis for a design that delivers great science with low risk
  - Technology development for A# synergistically aligned with Cosmic Explorer needs
  - We are collaborating with ET and the greater community on multiple topics (Science, Vacuum, Optical design)
  - We're looking forward to stability at the NSF
- ...And for CE to evolve into an NSF Major Facility Project

