

Additional quotes from several countries involved in the Gaia Collaboration:

- Belgium: "This black hole is special because it is so massive. This is the first time we find such a massive black hole of stellar origin in our Milky Way. It will help to understand the origin of the similarly massive black holes in distant galaxies, emitting gravitational waves when they merge with a companion," says Alain Jorissen of the Université Libre de Bruxelles in Belgium, member of the Gaia Collaboration.
- France: "What strikes me is that the chemical composition of the stellar companion is absolutely ordinary, similar to what we find in old metal-poor stars in our galaxy. There is no evidence that this star was contaminated by the ejecta of the supernovae explosion of the massive star that is now the black hole," says Elisabetta Caffau of CNRS, Observatoire de Paris in France, member of the Gaia Collaboration.
- Germany: "The scientific consequences of this discovery will unfold when soon many telescopes and instruments will be pointed to the position of Gaia BH3 on the sky, searching for all sorts of signs for things going on near the black hole, from gamma rays and X-rays all the way to radio waves," says Uli Bastian of the Astronomisches Rechen-Institut in Germany, member of the Gaia Collaboration.
- Israel: "Gaia BH3 is the very first black hole for which we could measure the mass so accurately. At 30 times that of our Sun, the object's mass is typical of the estimates we have for the masses of the very distant black holes observed by gravitational wave experiments. Gaia's measurements provide the first indisputable proof that black holes this heavy do exist," says Tsevi Mazeh of Tel Aviv University in Israel, member of the Gaia collaboration.
- Italy: "This new black hole shows the incredible potential of the Gaia data: it is just an appetiser of the discoveries that Gaia Data Release 4 will bring," says Antonella Vallenari of the Padova Observatory in Italy, deputy chair of the Gaia Collaboration.
- the Netherlands: "We continuously check our data and every now and then stumble across interesting things. This case was so surprising that we wanted to offer the worldwide scientific community the earliest possible opportunity to more closely examine this extraordinary black hole," says Anthony Brown of Leiden University, the Netherlands, and chair of the Gaia Collaboration.
- Poland: "For the first time we see a black hole in our galaxy in the mass range so far only seen in other galaxies through gravitational waves!" says Łukasz Wyrzykowski of Warsaw University in Poland, member of the Gaia Collaboration.
- Slovenia: "The relatively small distance to Gaia BH3 can be illustrated by noting that the light observed by Gaia was emitted by the star at the time

when classical Rome was governed by Emperor Nero. On the other hand, for black holes of similar masses, which have been discovered by gravitational waves, the travel took all the time since the occurrence of the first multicellular organisms on Earth or even since before the Earth came to existence," says Tomaz Zwitter from the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, and member of the Gaia Collaboration.

- Spain: "From an observational point of view, discovering Gaia BH3 is not so hard and specialised astronomical instruments will be able to detect its signatures as well. The difficulty is that you need to know which of the millions of stars to point your telescope at. This is where the power of a uniform all-sky survey like Gaia comes into play. Since Gaia observes all celestial sources that are bright enough to be seen by its detectors, we were able to find the needle in the haystack," says Johannes Sahlmann, working for the Gaia Science Operations Team at the European Space Astronomy Centre in Spain.
- Sweden: "The vast amounts of high-quality data produced by Gaia have been wowing astronomers for years now. This exciting discovery of a 33 solar-mass galactic black hole was made while teams were checking the quality of solutions in preparation for the next Gaia data release (DR4). We expect that this will be followed by more black holes discovered in the data after the release," say David Hobbs and Lennart Lindegren of Lund Observatory, Sweden.
- Switzerland: "Gaia is a true black hole detection machine because each of its three instruments can detect them," says Laurent Eyer of the Geneva Observatory in Switzerland, member of the Gaia Collaboration.
- United Kingdom: "Finding Gaia BH3 is like the moment in the film The Matrix where Neo starts to 'see' the matrix. In our case, 'the matrix' is our galaxy's population of dormant stellar black holes, which were hidden from us before Gaia detected them. Gaia BH3 is an important clue to this population because it is the most massive stellar black hole found in our galaxy. Gaia's next data release is expected to contain many more, which should help us to 'see' more of 'the matrix' and to understand how dormant stellar black holes form," says George Seabroke of University College London in the United Kingdom, member of the Gaia Collaboration.

The study relied also on data from:

- the Ultraviolet and Visual Echelle Spectrograph (UVES) instrument on the European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope in Chile,
- the HERMES spectrograph at the Mercator Telescope operated at La Palma (Spain) by Leuven University, Belgium, in collaboration with the Observatory of the University of Geneva, Switzerland, and

- the SOPHIE high-precision spectrograph at the Observatoire de Haute-Provence – OSU Institut Pythéas.

The Gaia Collaboration consists of about 450 people from 25 countries and is responsible for the preparation of Gaia's data for scientific use. Gaia's catalogues have resulted in the publication of over 10 000 scientific papers and 128 PhD theses.

Below a list of countries and international organisations is given with involvement in the Gaia Collaboration:

- Belgium
 - France
 - Germany
 - Italy
 - Spain
 - Sweden
 - Switzerland
 - the Netherlands
 - United Kingdom
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- European Space Agency (ESA)

with additional contributions from:

- Australia
 - Austria
 - Brazil
 - Chile
 - China
 - Croatia
 - Czech Republic
 - Finland
 - Greece
 - Hungary
 - Israel
 - Japan
 - Poland
 - Portugal
 - Slovenia
 - USA
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- European Southern Observatory (ESO)