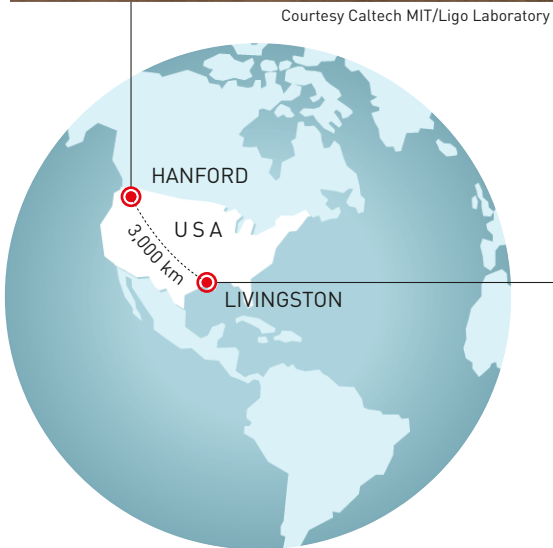


◀ The Hanford facility is on the steppes of the northwest USA, outside Hanford.

The Livingston facility is in Livingston in the southern swampland of Louisiana.



Courtesy Caltech MIT/Ligo Laboratory



Courtesy Caltech MIT/Ligo Laboratory

FIG 4. LIGO consists of two gigantic identical interferometers. The gravitational wave first hit the interferometer in Livingston and then passed its twin in Hanford, just over 3,000 km away, 7 milliseconds later. The signals were almost identical, and were a good match with the predicted signal for a gravitational wave. Using the signals, an area in the southern skies could also be identified as the area the waves came from.