

Memorandum of Understanding (LIGO-M050280-00-M)
between the
Australian Consortium for Interferometric Gravitational Astronomy
(ACIGA)
and the
Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO)

August 15, 2005

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to establish and define a collaborative relationship between the Australian Consortium for Interferometric Gravitational Astronomy (ACIGA) and the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO). Both parties to this agreement share the broad goals of developing the instruments and techniques for detecting and studying gravitational waves, and subsequently using them as an astrophysical probe. Under this MOU, the ACIGA Group will be a member group of the LIGO Scientific Collaboration.

1. The ACIGA consists of Professor McClelland who will serve as Principal Investigator for research in LIGO, along with Dr. Scott and Dr. Gray from the Australian National University along with a group of order 12; Professor Blair and Dr. Ju from the University of Western Australia along with a group of order 20; Professor Munch and Dr. Veitch from the University of Adelaide along with a group of order 6, Dr. Melatos from the University of Melbourne along with a group of 4 and Dr Lun from Monash University with a group of 4. The focus of the work done by the ACIGA Group under this agreement will cover detector characterization, data analysis, lasers, optics, isolation and suspension and advanced configurations.
2. LIGO comprises two parts: the LIGO Laboratory and the LIGO Scientific Collaboration. These two entities report to the LIGO Directorate, consisting of the LIGO Director, the LIGO Scientific Collaboration Spokesperson, and the LIGO Laboratory Deputy Director. The design and construction of the LIGO Observatories were carried out by California Institute of Technology (Caltech) and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) under a Cooperative Agreement between the National Science Foundation (NSF) and Caltech. The LIGO Oversight Committee supervises the realization of LIGO.
 - A. The LIGO Laboratory is responsible for the operation of the LIGO Observatories, the development and implementation of future detector systems, and participates in all aspects of the research with the LIGO detectors. LIGO is a system of three interferometric Fabry-Perot antennas,