

- [Technology and Gaming](#)

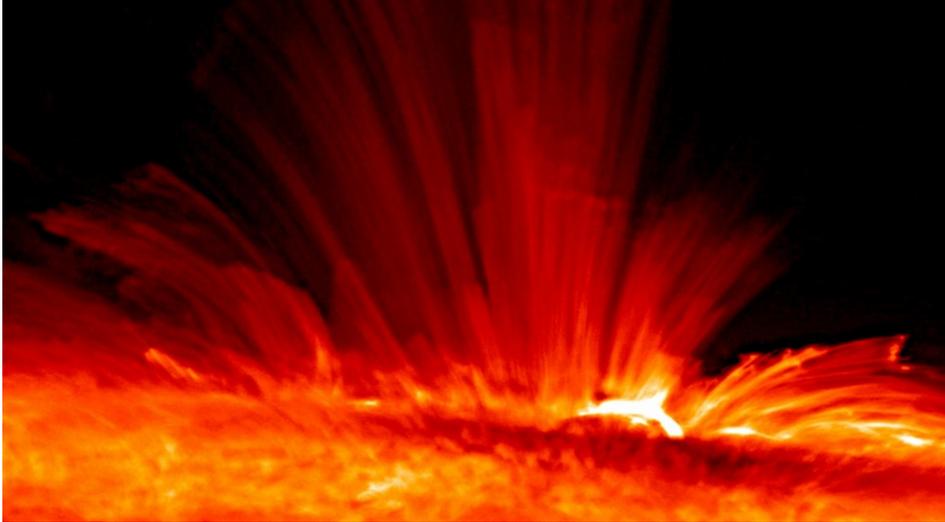
Technology and Gaming ▾

[Home](#)»[Exam Viral](#)»[Science World](#)

# A new solar telescope will allow us to see the the sun in unprecedented detail

◀ 1      ◀ 1

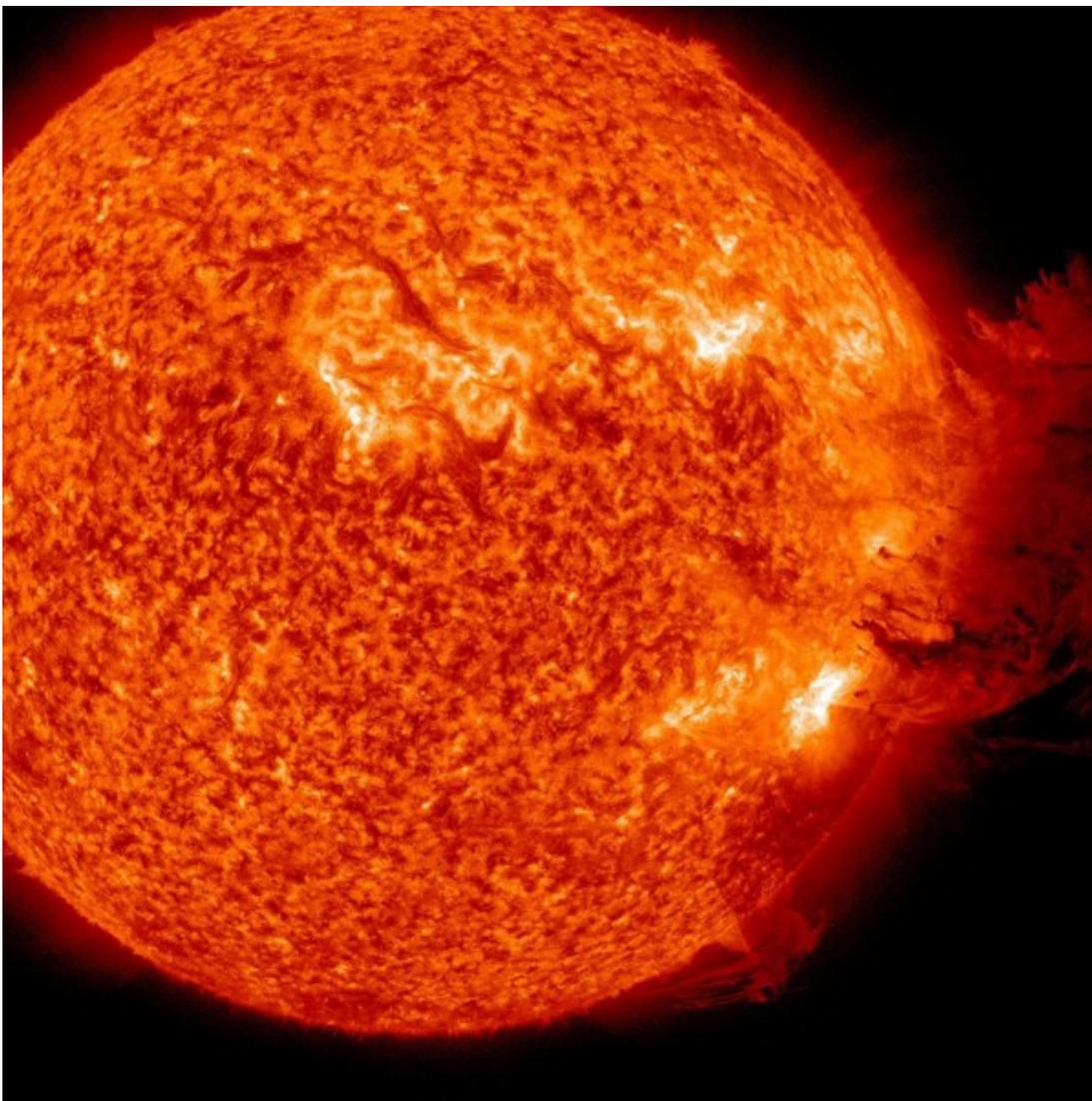
Monday, February 09, 2015



Researchers at eight different UK universities are set to build the world's biggest solar telescope, which will allow us to see unprecedented detail on the surface of the sun.

It is part of a consortium of eight UK universities and businesses to build the cameras for the 344 million US dollars (£226m) super-telescope, which will be situated on a mountain in Maui, Hawaii.

The consortium of UK institutes involved in the telescope project is led by Queen's University Belfast and includes Armagh Observatory, Northumbria University, University College London, and the Universities of Glasgow, Sheffield, St Andrews and Warwick.



The Sun unleashing a medium-sized solar flare, a minor radiation storm and a spectacular coronal mass ejection (Nasa/AP)

The Daniel K Inouye Solar Telescope (DKIST) will be launched in 2019 and is being constructed by the US National Solar Observatory. It will allow us to see distant planets in new detail – the equivalent of being able to examine a £1 coin from 100 kilometres away, scientists behind the project said.

Professor Mihalis Mathioudakis said: “DKIST will be a revolutionary instrument for ground-based solar physics, which is a growth area in the UK. It will be in a position to explore key questions regarding solar magnetic field generation and dissipation, solar variability, atmospheric structure and dynamics.

“Our consortium will deliver key equipment that will allow DKIST to achieve these scientific goals and it’s another example of how Queen’s research impacts on society, both locally and internationally.”



Queen's University Belfast is leading the project (Paul Faith/PA)

It is hoped that DKist will address fundamental questions at the core of contemporary solar physics.

The academic added: "The sun is the most important astronomical object for humankind with solar activity driving space weather and having profound effects on global climate and technology-based communications.

"To understand solar activity we need to observe and model the physical processes in the solar atmosphere on their intrinsic spatial and temporal scales so that, among other questions, we can reliably forecast this activity in space."

The consortium will oversee the development and delivery of the cameras, and take the lead in supporting the UK solar physics community in their use of the telescope.

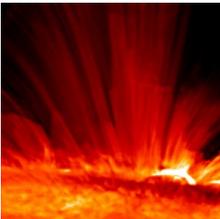
© Irish Examiner Ltd. All rights reserved

◀ 1    ◀ 1

More in this section



- [We might be beginning to understand why bees are dying](#)



- [A new solar telescope will allow us to see the the sun in unprecedented detail](#)



- [A spaceplane with no wings is going on a test flight](#)