

Largest digital camera begins decade-long universe survey

BY ADITHI RAMAKRISHNAN
AP SCIENCE WRITER

NEW YORK — The largest digital camera ever built is starting to capture images of unseen corners of the universe.

The Vera C. Rubin Observatory has officially begun its cosmic survey, meant to capture swathes of the sky in more depth and detail. Perched on a Chilean mountaintop, the telescope will point its eye at the southern sky for the next 10 years, taking hundreds of images per night.

Researchers hope Rubin's observations will help them take a better census of the universe, mapping billions of stars in the Milky Way and billions more galaxies beyond it. It takes pictures quickly and will grab images of

the same areas of sky multiple times, allowing scientists to glimpse fainter objects that previously eluded detection.

"We're going to see large numbers of scientists across the world working with this data set, studying the universe in a way that they haven't been able to before," said Phil Marshall, the observatory's deputy director of operations.

Rubin released its first images last year, including colorful shots of the Trifid and Lagoon nebulas located thousands of light-years from Earth. A light-year is nearly 6 trillion miles (9.7 trillion kilometers).

Since then, researchers have tuned up the equipment so it's ready to take pictures at the depth and accuracy required for the decade-long survey. The images may help

scientists discern how galaxies form and cluster over billions of years, and how the universe came to be.

Funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation and U.S. Department of Energy, the observatory is named after astronomer Vera Rubin, who offered the first tantalizing evidence that a mysterious material called dark matter might be lurking in the universe. Researchers hope the effort may yield clues about dark matter as well as an equally puzzling force known as dark energy.

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Uncredited/AP Photo

This image provided by NOIRLab shows stars in the constellation Lupus, as captured by the Vera C. Rubin Observatory.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Public Meeting
The Clarksville Urbanized Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CUAMPO) Executive Board will be meeting on Thursday, July 16, 2026 beginning at 11:00 a.m. Said meeting will be an in-person meeting at the RPC in the lower conference room, open to all with an on-line/virtual meeting option at the MPO website: www.cuampo.org. The link to join the meeting will be on the MPO website's home page. The Executive Board must attend the meeting in person to vote. Business includes the review and adoption of: Resolution 2026-05 CTS's Transit Agency Safety Performance Measure, Resolution 2026-06 to amend Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Project #77 into the FY2026-FY2029 TIP, Resolution 2026-07 CTS Budget Revisions to the FY2026-FY2029 TIP, and Resolution 2026-08 CTS's Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan. Said documents are available for public review during normal business hours at the MPO and available online at www.cuampo.org. The discussion of air quality, project updates and other routine business may be conducted. Anyone having questions or comments concerning these items should contact Michael Ziarnik or Zach Madden at 931-645-7448 or email Michael.ziarnik@cuampo.org or Zachary.madden@cuampo.org and/or attend this meeting. In accordance with the "Americans with Disabilities Act", if you have a disability, for which the MPO needs to provide accommodations, please notify us of your requirements by July 9, 2026. This request does not have to be in writing. It is the policy of the MPO to ensure compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; 49 CFP part 26; No person shall be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal funds on the grounds of Race, Color, Sex or National Origin.

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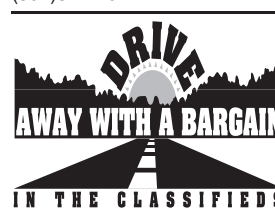
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