

# Astronomers have discovered 'strange signals' that can come from a star located 11 light years away.

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Recent astronomers have reported that they have discovered " *strange signals* " coming from the direction of a **small, fuzzy star about 11 light-years from Earth** .

The researchers received **mysterious signals** on May 12 when using **the Arecibo Observatory**, a large radio telescope built inside a sinkhole in Puerto Rican.



Arecibo radio telescope started collecting data for SETI since 1999. Photos uploaded to Wikipedia by File Upload Bot (Magnus Manske)

These strange radio signals seem to come from **Ross 128** , a red dwarf that hasn't yet discovered any planets around orbiting it and about 2,800 times more fuzzy than the Sun. **Abel Méndez** , a celestial biologist at Puerto Rico University in Arecibo, said the star had been observed for about 10 minutes, during which time the signal was recorded as " *almost recirculating* ".

Méndez is not sure that this is due to extraterrestrial life, but of course it cannot rule out this possibility. ' *Extraterrestrial search groups (SETI - Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) are interested in these signals,* ' Méndez wrote in an email to Business Insider.

## Explanations of "very special" signals

Arecibo Observatory plays an important role in finding signals from aliens, while helping to observe distant galaxies and asteroids located near the Earth.

Méndez thinks this strange signal is more likely to originate from a human-made object in space, perhaps a satellite located thousands of miles away.

" *The observation (of the Arecibo radio telescope) is quite wide, so it is possible that the signals are not from a star but from another object within the scope of observation.*" Méndez added: "*The signal from some communication satellites is at the frequency we can observe .*"

However, in the July 12 diary of the Ross 128 mystery, Méndez wrote: " *We have never seen satellites emitting such signals* ", "*very special*" signals. .



Photo source: NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center / S.Wiessinger

Another scientific explanation is that comets appear, or a burst of energy from the star's surface. Such explosions travel from the Sun at the speed of light, emitting a strong radio signal and can break down satellite and communication waves on Earth and endanger astronauts.

**Solar flares** may also be ejected by " *coronal mass ejections (CME)* , also known as **the Solar Wind** , but move slowly but have a lot of energy. Besides, solar wind is actually a flow of charged particles released from the upper part of the Sun. Large storms caused power outages and harmed communication satellites. Swirling energy particles in solar winds can damage electronic devices and damage astronauts or passengers in high-altitude flights.

Meanwhile, solar storms also directly affect Earth's geography and radio stations, as well as launch energy particles into space.

To see if the strange signals are still there, Méndez said: " *The Arecibo radio telescope will observe Ross 128 and its surrounding area again and again, starting July 16* ".

" *It will be successful if the signal is still in the star's position but not in the surrounding directions. If we do not receive the signal again the mystery will be more difficult to explain,* " Méndez said.



China's FAST telescope. Photo source: Liu Xu / Xinhua via AP

Méndez wrote in his blog that other radio telescopes may not be " *sensitive* " to receiving signals, except China's *radio telescope* , FAST ( *Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical radio Telescope* ). . However, FAST is currently inactive because it is in calibration time. And Méndez also said that he didn't know when it would work again.

**Seth Shostak** , a senior astronomer at the SETI Institute, has confirmed that the group is " *well aware of the signals* " and can use the Allen Telescope in California ' *to check* '.

" *In fact, there is a lot of possibility that it is an alien life intervention. It is always a possible case* ," Shostak replied Business Insider via email.

Right now there is only one persuasive signal from extraterrestrial space that can come from aliens: " *WOW signals* ", Shostak said. " *That is still quite strange* ."

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