

“There is nothing as beautiful as Chandra sailing off on its way to work.”

Cady Coleman mission specialist who deployed Chandra.

NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, manages the Chandra program for NASA's Science Mission Directorate in Washington. The Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory in Cambridge, Massachusetts, controls Chandra's science and flight operations.

nasa.gov

chandra.si.edu

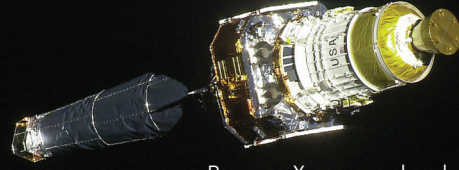


THE CHANDRA X-RAY OBSERVATORY

NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory is a telescope specially designed to detect X-ray emission from very hot regions of the Universe such as exploded stars, clusters of galaxies, and matter around black holes.

July 23, 1999

LAUNCH + DEPLOYMENT



Because X-rays are absorbed by Earth's atmosphere, Chandra must orbit above it, up to an altitude of 139,000 km (86,500 mi) in space.



STS-93 CREW

Jeffrey Ashby, Catherine Coleman, Michel Tognini, Steven Hawley, Eileen Collins

RESULTS

Chandra has traced the separation of dark matter from normal matter in the collision of galaxies in a cluster and is contributing to both dark matter and dark energy studies.

RESULTS

Chandra has observed the region around the supermassive black hole in the center of our Milky Way, and found black holes across the Universe.

Chandra has imaged the spectacular, glowing remains of exploded stars, and taken spectra showing the dispersal of elements.

FIRST LIGHT

Chandra carries four very sensitive mirrors nested inside each other. The energetic X-rays strike the insides of the hollow shells and are focused onto electronic detectors at the end of the 9.2- m (30-ft.) optical bench.

