SPOTLIGHT

MINERVA TELESCOPE

Mt. Hopkins, Arizona

The MINERVA telescope array is housed at Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory, a field installation of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, located in Mount Hopkins, Arizona. It is the first U.S. observatory dedicated to exoplanetary science capable of both precise radial velocity and transit studies. The multi-telescope concept is implemented to either observe separate targets or a single target with a larger effective aperture. The flexibility of the observatory maximizes scientific potential and also provides ample opportunities for education and public outreach.

MINERVA stands for Miniature Exoplanet Radial Velocity Array, a group of small-aperture robotic telescopes that search for Earth-like exoplanets near our solar system, within about 75 light-years from our Sun. The design and implementation of MINERVA is carried out by professors, research associates, postdocs, and students at all levels at Harvard, University of Montana, Penn State, University of New South Wales, Caltech, UPenn, and University of Missouri.[1]

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[1] https://www.cfa.harvard.edu/minerva/

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