Lab helps to discover supernova ASAS-SN

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Superluminous supernova is the brightest ever seen

Astronomers have been left stunned by a superluminous cosmic explosion that outshines the entire output of the 100 billion stars in the Milky Way.

The aptly named ASASSN-15lh, spotted by the Automated Survey for Supernovae (ASAS-SN), is a ball of hot gas billions of light years away that radiated energy 570 billion times more powerful than our Sun at its peak.

At the centre of this cosmic event is a superluminous supernova, a record-breaking explosion more than twice as bright as the previous record-holder. But scientists are stumped as to what kind of stars or stellar events lead up to these exceptionally rare, extreme explosions.

Read more.

Brid-Aine Parnell - Jan. 15, 2016

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