

One billion eyes for one billion stars

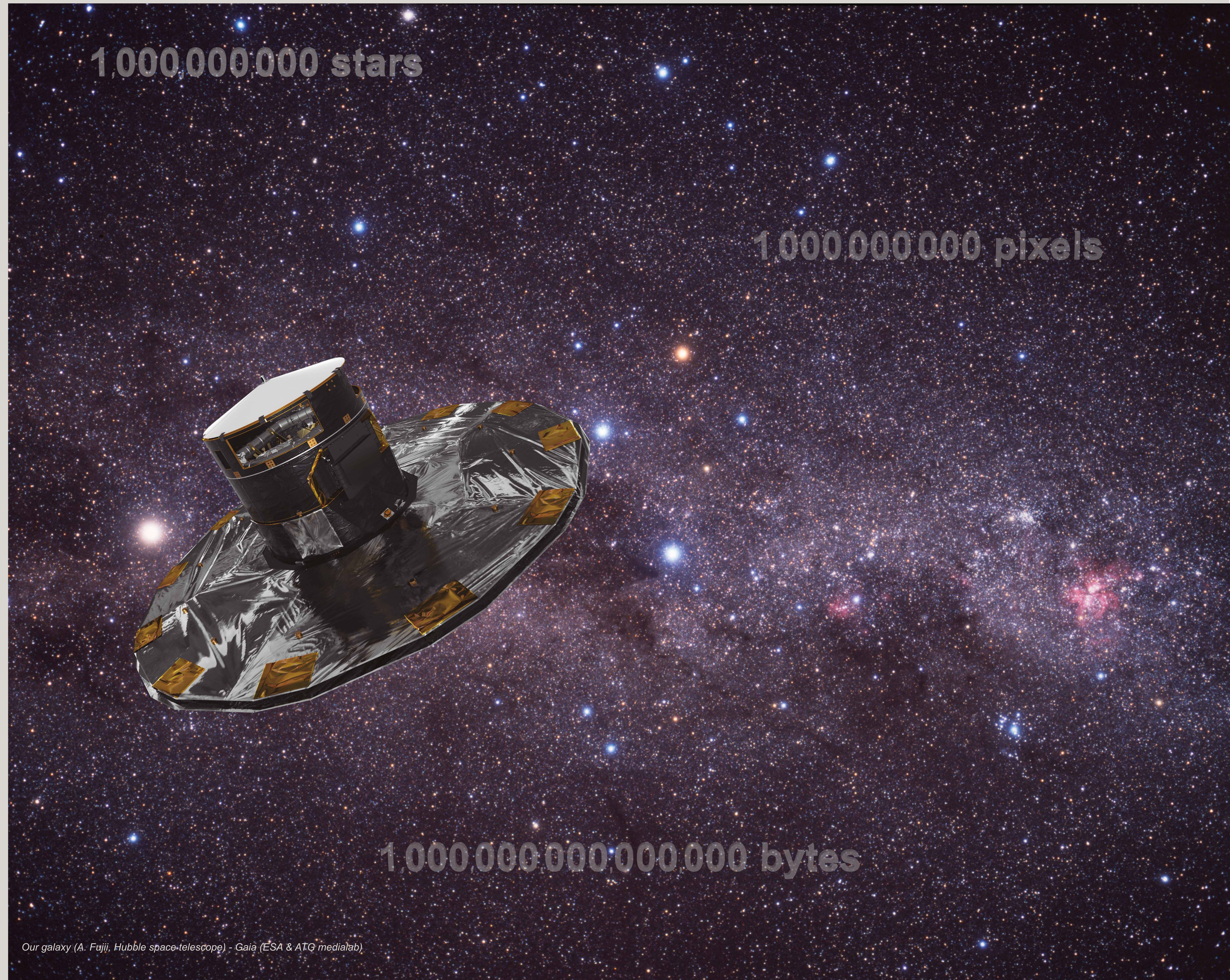
The space project Gaia

The Gaia mission, designed and built by the European Space Agency (ESA) and proposed by European scientists, will map the positions, distances and proper motions for a billion stars in order to unveil the evolution of our Galaxy from its formation to the present days.

The importance of Gaia resides in its capacity to measure positions and proper motions with an unprecedented accuracy, equivalent to the ability to recognize a one Euro coin on the Moon as seen from the Earth.

Gaia will be launched at the end of 2013 and it will be active until 2019. Final data are expected at the beginning of the 2020s, even though we will have preliminary data earlier.

Without question Gaia will revolutionize all fields of astrophysics.



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