

Script for ESOcast Light 254: **Micronovae** a New Kind of Stellar Explosion

| | |
|---|---|
| ESOcast Light 254 | |
| [Visual starts] | |
| New ESOcast intro | New ESOcast introduction |
| Micronovae a New Kind of Stellar Explosion | |
| 1. Using ESO's Very Large Telescope , astronomers have discovered a new phenomenon: micronovae — stellar explosions lasting only a few hours. | |
| 2. They occur in two-star systems , where a white dwarf steals material from its companion star. | |
| 3. The white dwarf's strong magnetic fields funnel the material towards its poles. As the material hits the star's hot surface, it produces a bright, explosive flash: a micronova . | |
| 4. But don't be fooled by the name "micro"! Each of these short explosions can burn through 3.5 billion Great Pyramids of Giza's worth of material. | |
| 5. "[<i>Micronovae</i>] may actually be quite common, but because they are so fast they are difficult to catch in action." Simone Scaringi, Durham University (UK) | |
| [Outro] | <i>Produced by ESO, the European Southern Observatory. Reaching new heights in Astronomy.</i> |

Also interesting:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7tQAYhmnOsw>

and

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pIFiCLHJmig>