COLLEGE STATION – Texas A&M Professor, Rupak Mahapatra is one of only three groups of scientists in the nation to study what is known as Dark Matter.

“We’ve been trying to understand the universe for many centuries, but it turns out we understand less than five percent of the universe,” Mahapatra said.

Dark Matter is known as an invisible matter in the universe that we can’t see or feel – yet it’s flowing right through us.

Without it, Rupak and his team say the world wouldn’t exist as we know it.

“There’s not a correlation of how Americans are going to use Dark Matter, but these detectors could be used – say for homeland security,” said Mark Platt, an Equipment Engineer in the Dark Matter lab. “There are a number of different things that this technology can transfer to.”

Many scientists argue it’s one of Astronomy’s greatest mysteries – but only a select few are able to test those theories.

Rupak and his team currently work in a more than three million dollar facility – but were recently selected to receive future funding by the Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation.

This all took place because of one very important factor.
The way we detect it is through our sensory detectors which we make in this lab using sophisticated instruments we got from the semi-conductor industry," Rupak added. "We make tiny circuits that are thinner than human hair."

If you see the detector in person, the average person may say it looks like a shiny piece of metal, but this rare form of earth could cost a research facility half a million dollars.

"We've tailored the process with inline techniques for observing what we're doing so that the structures we make are always the same every time we make them," said Rusty Harris, Associate Professor in the Texas A&M Physics Department.

One of their labs is called the "Yellow Photo Lab" and is used to make clean crystal structures to detect Dark Matter at a cheaper cost – which puts Texas A&M light years of ahead of their competition.

And although this is a branch of science with a lot of uncertainty – it could be the glue that holds the universe together.

Researchers at the university know they have a long way to go – but they are confident this technology will help them to see what is known as invisible material.

Related Articles

City of Bryan Holding 2nd Meeting on New Skate Parks
Updated on Wednesday, July 23, 2014
UPDATE - Wednesday's second community meeting to discuss the City of Bryan's new skate parks got heated when some residents near the proposed loc... More>>

911 Dispatchers Prefer Land Lines over Cell Phones
Updated on Wednesday, July 23, 2014
BRYAN – In Brazos County, more than half of all calls to 911 are made from cell phones. These mobile devices are a wireless convenience that does n... More>>

Two-Car Accident Sends Man to Hospital
Updated on Wednesday, July 23, 2014
A two-vehicle accident closed down Texas Avenue in Bryan Wednesday morning when a pickup traveling South at the intersection of Texas and MLK rear-end... More>>

TEEX Develops New HazMat Suit
Updated on Wednesday, July 23, 2014
College Station-- The Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service is teaching its HazMat students this summer with a new suit that it ... More>>

BISD Board Of Trustees Vote For $132 Million Bond Election
Updated on Wednesday, July 23, 2014
(BRYAN) -- The Bryan ISD Board of Trustees has unanimously voted to call for a bond election this November. The proposed $132 million in funding is expected to dramatically improve the learning environment in Bryan ISD by realigning grades, building new facilities to manage growth, eliminating portable buildings and addressing other high-need infrastructure projects. More>>

KAGS Team

KAGS is the NBC affiliate for the Brazos Valley. The station can be viewed on Suddenlink cable (channels 6 and 23-1), and on DIRECTV (channel 23-1). KAGS call letters were previously KMAY23. In June of 2009, London Broadcasting purchased KMAY23 from the Mayborn family located in Eddy, TX. In 2011, London Broadcasting made several large scale changes to the station, including changing the call letters to KAGS (pronounced K-Ags) in July, 2011, relocating the station office to 2800 South Texas Avenue, Suite 110 in Bryan, Texas, and starting a local news broadcast. Click here to learn more about the KAGS.

Quick Links

Home
News
Health Matters
Education
Weather

Contact KAGS

KAGS HD
2800 S. Texas Avenue, Suite 110
Bryan, TX 77802
Phone: 979-703-8404
Fax: 979-703-8409
Advertise with Us
Employment Opportunities