

The Whirlpool Galaxy



Isaac Newton Group of Telescopes

M51 galaxy, known as the Whirlpool Galaxy, is a bright spiral galaxy fairly close to us (231,450,000,000,000,000 kilometers away). To the north of M51, at the bottom of the picture, is a companion galaxy which is being disrupted by the gravitational tidal forces of the main galaxy. Shown here is a true-colour picture using B, V and R filters imaging on the new Isaac Newton Telescope Prime Focus Camera.