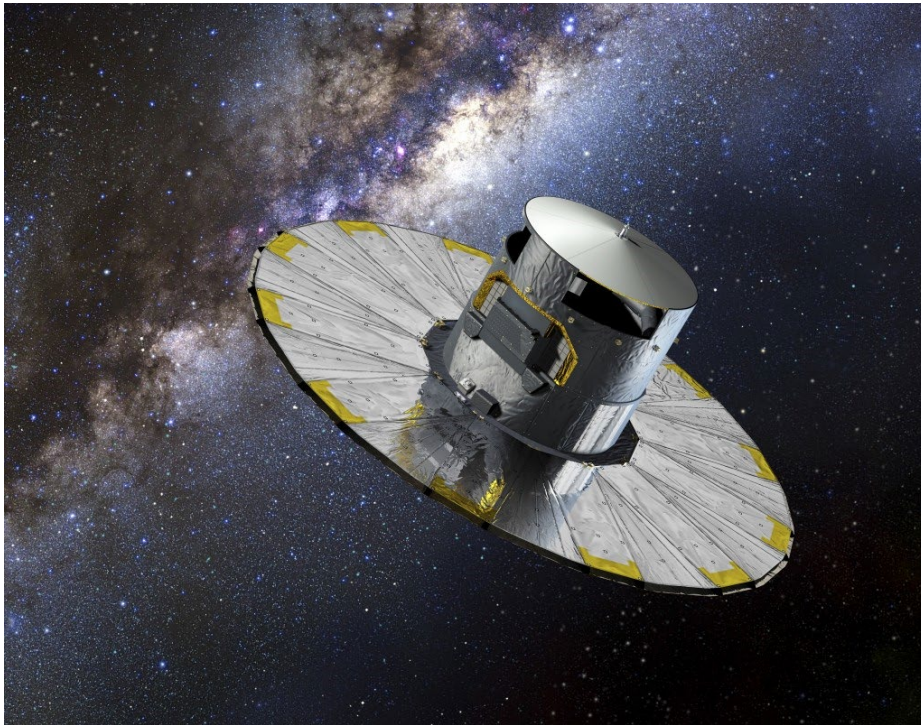


19 December



(Picture credits: *ESA–D. Ducros*)

Gaia launch anniversary (2013)

Space agency/country: ESA
Mission: *Gaia*

The *Gaia* spacecraft was launched on 19 December 2013. The mission started operations on 25 July 2014. Originally, its lifetime was expected to be 5 years, but the project has since been extended. The mission's objective is to create a wide and precise map of more than a billion stars throughout the Milky Way galaxy and beyond while also map recording the motions, luminosities, temperatures and composition of as many objects as possible.

More information:

https://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/gaia/news_20141219

https://www.esa.int/Science_Exploration/Space_Science/Gaia