



**Chandra X-ray
Observatory Center**

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Cyg X-3's Little Friend: A small cloud of dust and gas containing a new star being formed about 20,000 light years from Earth.

(Credit: X-ray: NASA/CXC/SAO/M.McCollough et al, Radio: ASIAA/SAO/SMA)

Caption: A snapshot of the life cycle of stars has been captured where a stellar nursery is reflecting X-rays from a source powered by an object at the endpoint of its evolution. This composite image shows X-rays from Chandra (white) and radio data from the Submillimeter Array (red and blue). The bright source to the right is Cygnus X-3, an X-ray binary. The smaller object to the left is the Little Friend, a cloud of gas that is reflecting X-rays produced by Cygnus X-3. This configuration provides astronomers with a new way of studying how stars form.

Scale: Image is 1.4 arcmin across (about 8.15 light years)

Chandra X-ray Observatory ACIS Image

CXC operated for NASA by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory
