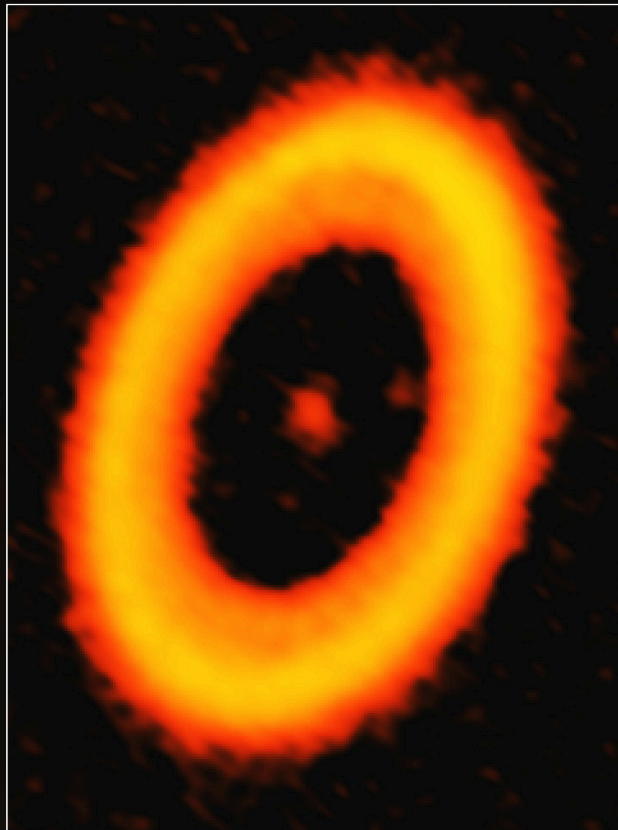


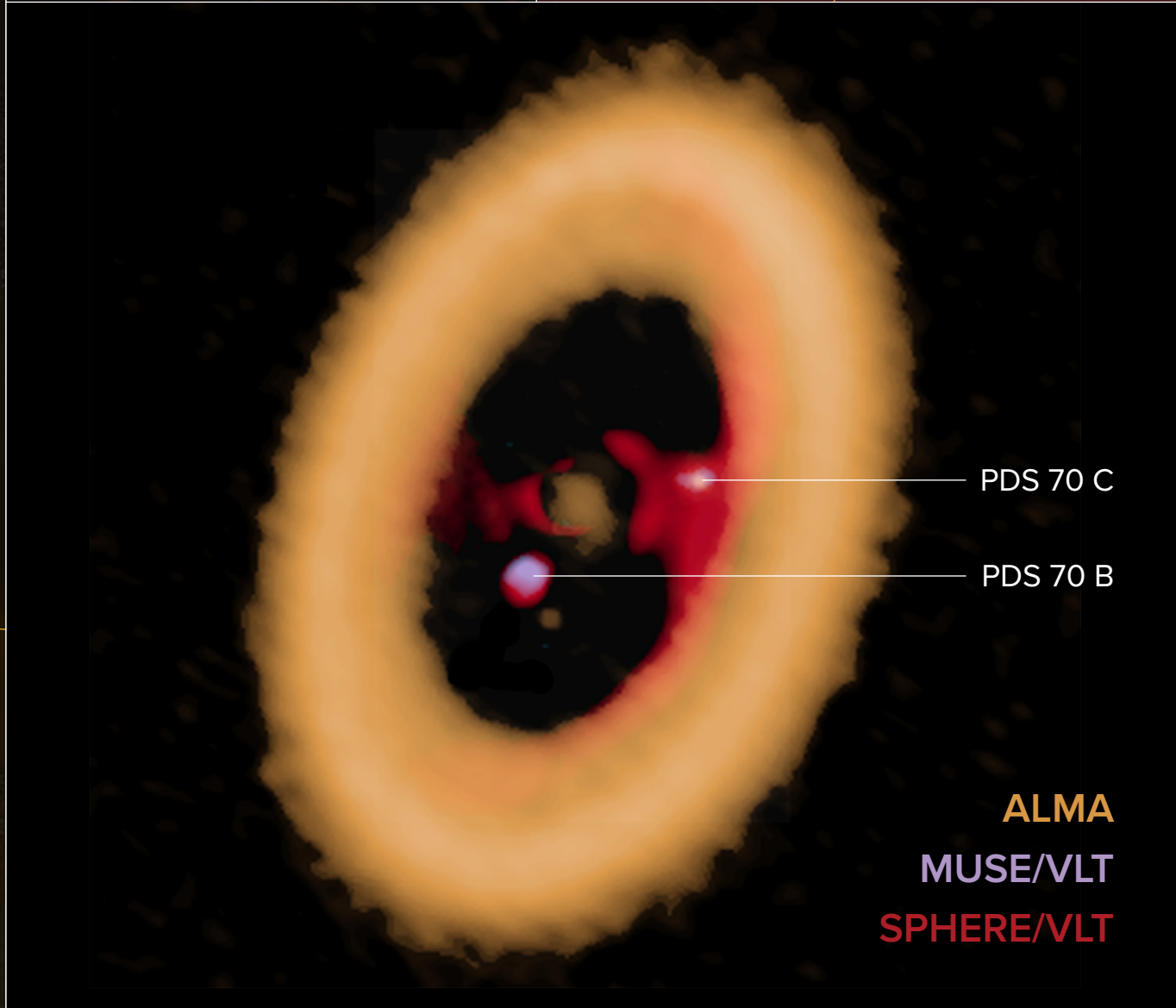
CIRCUMPLANETARY DISK DISCOVERED

Never-Before-Seen Feature Discovered in PDS 70



LEFT: ALMA image of the dust in PDS 70, a star system located approximately 370 light-years from Earth. Two faint smudges in the gap region of this disk are associated with newly formed planets. One such concentration of dust is a circumplanetary disk, the first such feature ever detected around a distant star.

BELOW: Composite image of PDS 70. Comparing new ALMA data to earlier VLT observations, astronomers determined that the young planet designated PDS 70 c has a circumplanetary disk, a feature that is strongly theorized to be the birthplace of moons.



Credits: ALMA (ESO/NAOJ/NRAO); A. Isella, NRAO/AUI/NSF; S. Dagnello (artist impression)

