**Largest galaxy ever discovered baffles scientists**

* Astronomers just found the largest galaxy ever discovered, and they have no idea how it got so big.
* At 16.3 million light-years wide, the Alcyoneus galaxy has a diameter 160 times wider than the Milky Way and four times that of the previous title holder, IC 1101, which spans 3.9 million light-years, researchers reported in a new study.
* Named after one of the mythical giants who fought Hercules and whose name means "mighty ass" in Greek, Alcyoneus is roughly 3 billion light-years from Earth.
* The galactic monster is an especially large example of a radio galaxy, or a galaxy with a supermassive black hole at the center which gobbles up enormous amounts of matter before spitting it out — sending gigantic two jets of plasma moving at close to the speed of light.
* After traveling millions of light-years, the plasma beams slow, spreading out into plumes that emit light in the form of radio waves. In the case of Alcyoneus, its lobes are the largest ever discovered.
* Galaxies that sport gigantic, plasma-filled radio lobes aren't new (even the Milky Way has two small plumes), but how Alcyoneus, a relatively ordinary galaxy at its center, was able to grow such monstrously huge plumes is a mystery to scientists.