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ATCA detects the radio brightening of the X-ray transient MAXI J1348-630

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on 30 Jan 2019; 20:28 UTCredential Certification: *Thomas Russell (t.d.russell@uva.nl)*

Subjects: Radio, X-ray, Black Hole, Transient

Referred to by ATel #: [12470](#), [12477](#), [12480](#), [12491](#), [12497](#), [12520](#), [13459](#), [13465](#), [13539](#)

Following the discovery of the X-ray transient MAXI J1348-630 (ATels #[12425](#), #[12430](#), #[12434](#), #[12439](#), #[12441](#), #[12447](#), #[12448](#)), we conducted radio observations with the Australia Telescope Compact Array (ATCA) from 2019-01-26 19:55 UT to 2019-01-27 00:33 UT (MJD 58509.9 +/- 0.1), and from 2019-01-27 21:30 UT to 2019-01-28 03:55 UT (MJD 58511.03 +/- 0.15). For both observations, the telescope was in its most compact H75 configuration, with the core of the array having a longest baseline of 75 m, and a single fixed antenna located 6 km from the array core. Observations were taken simultaneously at 5.5 and 9.0 GHz, with a bandwidth of 2 GHz at both frequencies. We used PKS 1934-638 for bandpass and flux calibration, while 1352-63 was used for phase calibration. Data were calibrated and imaged following standard standard procedures within CASA (version 5.1.1; McMullin et al. 2007), where imaging (with the inclusion of the isolated antenna) was carried out with a Briggs robust parameter of -1 at both frequencies.

We detect a radio source consistent with the X-ray position (ATel #[12434](#)), with a radio position (at 9 GHz) of:

R.A. (J2000): 13:48:12.79 +/- 0.03

Dec (J2000): -63:16:28.48 +/- 0.04,

where the R.A. errors are from beam centroiding and Declination errors are statistical.

To determine the source flux density, we fit for a point source in the image plane. Due to the compact configuration and single isolated antenna, the flux densities were also checked by fitting a delta function in the uv-plane with UVMULTIFIT (Marti-Vidal et al. 2014) within CASA to ensure the results were consistent. Our first observation (on MJD 58509), detected the source at a flux density of 3.4 +/- 0.2 mJy at 5.5 GHz and 3.5 +/- 0.2 mJy at 9 GHz, implying a radio spectral

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index of $\alpha = 0.0 \pm 0.2$ (where $S_\nu \propto \nu^{-\alpha}$), consistent with a flat radio spectrum from a compact jet. Our second radio observation (on MJD 58511) shows the radio counterpart brightening to 6.2 ± 0.4 mJy at 5.5 GHz and 6.5 ± 0.5 at 9 GHz, where $\alpha = 0.1 \pm 0.3$, also indicating a flat or slightly inverted radio spectrum from a compact jet.

Our initial radio observation translates to a 5 GHz radio luminosity of $\sim 1.3 \times 10^{30}$ (D/8kpc)² erg/s. Swift-XRT observations taken close in time to our first radio epoch (ATel #12434), show a 1-10 keV X-ray luminosity of $\sim 3 \times 10^{37}$ (D/8kpc)² erg/s. Combining the radio and X-ray luminosities from this date and placing them on the radio/X-ray luminosity plane supports the classification as a black hole X-ray binary from the X-ray timing and spectral properties (ATel #12447).

Radio monitoring will continue.

We thank Jamie Stevens and ATNF staff for scheduling these radio observations.

- 12469 MAXI/GSC detects an X-ray spectral softening of the X-ray transient MAXI J1348-630
- 12457 Reduction of the rate of flux increase during recent INTEGRAL hard state observations of the new transient black hole candidate MAXI J1348-630
- 12456 ATCA detects the radio brightening of the X-ray transient MAXI J1348-630
- 12448 Optical colors of MAXI J1348-630
- 12447 NICER identification of MAXI J1348-630 as a probable black hole X-ray binary
- 12441 INTEGRAL's detection of evolution in MAXI J1348-630
- 12439 Optical brightening of MAXI J1348-630
- 12434 MAXI J1348-630: Swift XRT localization, possible periodicity
- 12430 Optical counterpart of MAXI J1348-630
- 12425 MAXI/GSC discovery of a new X-ray transient MAXI J1348-630
- 12128 Optical brightening of MAXI J1820+070 over the soft to hard transition observed with LCO and the AI Sadeem Observatory

[[Telegram Index](#)]

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