Arp 299 is the site of intense star formation, most likely triggered by the galaxy interactions. The star formation rate in Arp 299 is estimated to be as high as 90 solar masses/yr, and it is the second most luminous galaxies in X-rays within 150 million light years of Earth.

Chandra observations have revealed 25 bright, discrete sources that are likely associated with binary star systems in which a black hole is accreting matter from a massive companion star. A diffuse X-ray component is also observed. An estimated 80% of this comes from unresolved X-ray binary systems containing accreting black holes and neutron stars, and 20% from hot interstellar gas with a temperature ~10 MK.

Scale: Image is 2.8 arcmin across (about 117,000 light years). Distance estimate: 140 million light years

Credits: Chandra X-ray: NASA/CXC/Univ. of Crete/Anastasopoulou, K. et al.; NuSTAR X-ray: NASA/NuSTAR/GSFC/Ptak, A. et al; Optical: NASA/STScI
Instrument: ACIS