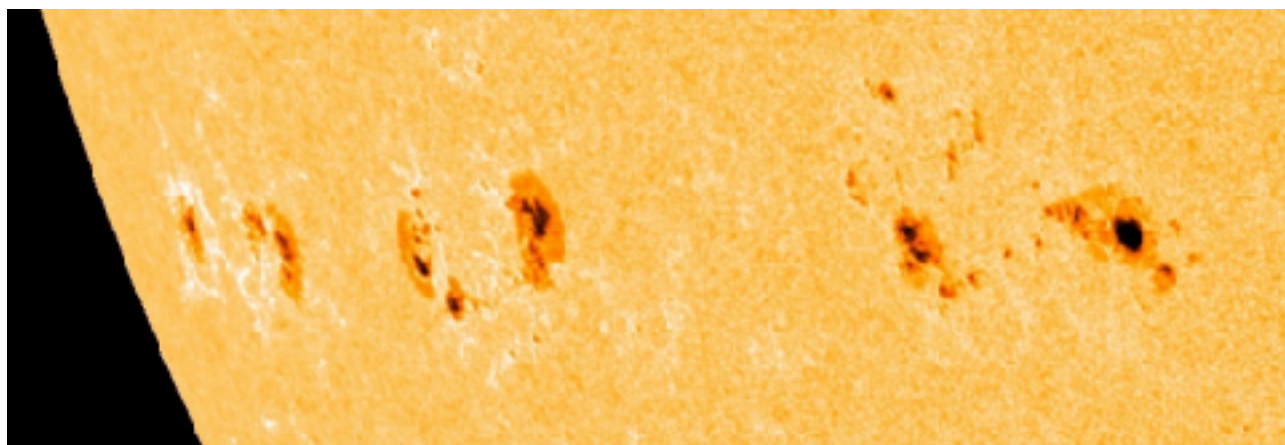


The sun is experiencing a surge of sunspot formation. In the past 24 hours, a train of dark cores stretching more than 350,000 km has emerged in the sun's southern hemisphere. The new spots are growing rapidly and crackling with C-class solar flares.



Above : Sunspots growing rapidly in the sun's southern hemisphere.  
Credit: Solar Dynamics Observatory