



E-mail : [patrice.verdier@in2p3.fr](mailto:patrice.verdier@in2p3.fr)

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## 2025 meeting of the Steering Committee of the Dark Matter Lab

### Composition of the Steering Committee (SC):

#### German Members:

- DESY: Ties Behnke
- GSI: Yvonne Leifels
- KIT: Marc Weber
- External: Klaus Desch

#### French Members:

- Christelle Roy
- Patrice Verdier (chair)
- Nicolas Leroy
- Laurent Vacavant

DMLab Directors: Thomas Schoerner (DESY) and Dirk Zerwas (CNRS)

**Agenda of the meeting:** <https://indico.in2p3.fr/event/36237/>

The SC of DMLab met in Bonn the 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2025.

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The DMLab Directors presented the activities and projects of the past year since the last SC committee held on October 16, 2024. Key projects in the 5 active pillars of the IRL evolved, including the merger of two phenomenology–experiment efforts, while two projects have stopped. This rich and fruitful program is leading to valuable scientific results and publications in the fields of dark matter (DM) searches, developments in computing and machine learning techniques, particles detectors and accelerators, and theory.

The structure of the 6<sup>th</sup> pillar on gravitational waves (GW) and multi-messenger (MM) physics is still on the making. There are interests to develop collaborations within the Einstein Telescope project which is taking another dimension in Europe; also, high energy gamma ray physics with the CTA experiment was initially identified as an important area of collaboration within the DMLab. The SC encourages Directors to continue to seek how to structure these high-potential activities between German and French laboratories.

The travel program between CNRS, DESY, GSI and KIT continues with short-term visits allowing the strengthening of the projects. Workshops and meetings sustain collaboration and idea exchange, with the 2025 annual meeting held in Bonn. The SALTO program (CNRS with MPG), supporting German PhDs and post-docs to travel to France could be extended to Helmholtz laboratories; applications in 2026 could start answering to the needs expressed by DMLab for such visits. After the meeting Christelle Roy was informed that the SALTO program will not be continued beyond the initially scheduled three years. She encouraged the directors to get in touch with the deputy director of the DEI (CNRS) to explore other opportunities. On the CNRS side, DMLab should further explore the possibilities offered by CNRS for long-term affectation to support key projects.

In the framework of the ESPPU 2026, DMLab has initiated DMInfraNet, a proposed European DM infrastructure network. This has led to a white paper from renowned authors in this research field from 27 institutions, including proposals for the networking of these infrastructures and the organization of instrumentation R&D. There are also new ideas in simulation and data management, where important needs are indeed expressed by the community. Structuring the computing and data for DM experiments in conjunction with the DM data centre in Munich and maybe also at European level within the European Science Cluster of Astronomy & Particle Physics (ESCAPE) is a high-impact development track. The SC strongly supports DMLab to continue this effort and the publishing of a strategy draft.

The SC congratulates the DMLab for successful development of scientific collaboration between CNRS, DESY, GSI and KIT. Year 3 concludes with strong progress in research, training, networking. The next meeting will take place in 2026 during the DMLab annual meeting.

CNRS Nucléaire & Particules - IN2P3

3, rue Michel-Ange

75794 Paris Cedex 16

T. 01.44.96.40.00

[www.cnrs.fr](http://www.cnrs.fr)