

## The KM3NeT project: status and perspectives

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KM3NeT is an international consortium involving more than 300 scientists from 10 EU countries. Its main objective is the construction of a multi-km<sup>3</sup> high-energy neutrino telescope in the Mediterranean Sea that will also host an interdisciplinary observatory for devices dedicated to marine sciences.

KM3NeT has been included in the roadmap of the European Strategy Forum of Research Infrastructures (ES-FRI). Very high energy neutrinos are important messengers to study non-thermal phenomena in the Universe and their detection will help to answer astrophysical questions, such as those related to the origin of the cosmic rays and the mechanisms of particle acceleration. The pioneering ANTARES, NEMO and NESTOR underwater neutrino telescope projects comprise the extensive R&D knowledge base behind the KM3NeT project. A Technical Design Report has been published which describes the technological solutions chosen for the detector. European-wide funding is available now to start a first construction phase. The present status of the project and the steps towards construction are presented and the physics potential discussed.

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