

Status of the KM3NeT project

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KM3NeT aims at the construction of a high energy neutrino telescope in the Mediterranean Sea. Due to its location and its large size (several km³) it is the optimal instrument to investigate neutrinos from the Southern sky and in particular from the Galactic plane, thus making it complementary to IceCube.

The initial, EU-funded stages (Design Study and Preparatory Phase Study) have been completed and now a first construction phase has started. The full KM3NeT detector will be a distributed, networked infrastructure made of several blocks, each with about one hundred Detection Units (DU), i.e. vertical structures hosting the photo-sensors. In Italy, off the coast of Capo Passero, and in France, off the coast of Toulon, the construction of the infrastructures hosting the future KM3NeT blocks is in progress. The technological features of the KM3NeT detector and the capability of KM3NeT to discover Galactic sources will be discussed.

Moreover, the construction of these large deep-sea infrastructures will allow for collaboration with groups active in the field of marine and geophysics sciences. Some examples of such interdisciplinary collaboration will be highlighted.

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