KM3NeT Transnational Access call for proposals (Cycle 1)

SCIENCE PROGRAMS BASED ON KM3NeT DATA PROPOSED BY EXTERNAL SCIENTISTS

The KM3NeT Collaboration encourages external scientists to propose scientific programs using the KM3NeT telescopes data. The programs will be granted by a dedicated Program Committee (PC) based on scientific merit. This call is open to all external users, with no restriction.

Program Cycle 1

The cycle 1 of transnational access (cf ACME part) to KM3NeT data is opened up to **the submission deadline: May 22 2026 at 12:00 UTC**. The decision will be given by early September.

Following submission, the proposals will be evaluated by a PC, comprising members from both KM3NeT and the Pierre Auger Collaborations. External scientists may act as Principal Investigators (PI) or co-Investigators (coI) on the proposals, provided they agree to a Non-Disclosure Agreement with the KM3NeT collaboration, as specified below.

Data and Authorship

KM3NeT data is proprietary to the KM3NeT Collaboration. This data may require specific expertise and tools for analysis. Selected members of the KM3NeT Collaboration, appointed by the Collaboration or proposed by the Principal Investigator of an external proposal, will support external projects through data analysis and publication once access is granted. The granted proposals will have to be started within one year from submission.
Publications will have to follow the KM3NeT publication rules and the entire KM3NeT Collaboration will have to be listed as authors on any publications based on KM3NeT data. The authorship details should be defined at the start of the proposal.

A Non-Disclosure Agreement will be signed with the external scientists.

GUIDE FOR PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

General Information

The KM3NeT Collaboration (www.km3net.org) is designed to detect and study cosmic neutrinos and their sources in the Universe, as well as to advance our understanding of intrinsic neutrino properties. The KM3NeT infrastructure comprises two underwater Cherenkov neutrino telescopes deployed at deep-sea sites in the Mediterranean Sea: KM3NeT-ARCA, located offshore Portopalo di Capo Passero (Sicily, Italy), optimized for the observation of high-energy neutrinos, and KM3NeT-ORCA, located offshore Toulon (France), designed to study low-energy neutrinos. Beginning of 2026, ARCA and ORCA comprise 51 and 33 detection units, respectively.

Proposal Submission Preparation

The submission deadline is May 22, 2026 at 12:00 UTC. To check feasibility, you may ask for specific information or if there is not an existing internal proposal at this address km3net-TNA-support@km3net.de before submission.

Access is granted upon submission of a written description of the intended work and the names, nationalities, and home institutions of the users. The proposal will comprise two documents: a proposal description and a team description. Please, use the templates provided on the KM3NeT web-site for preparing them. The proposal PI should include all the required information in electronic format: targets, needed resources, along with the scientific justification and feasibility in the scientific justification document and collaborators and their roles in the team expertise and background. The documents should be sent only in PDF format. The proposal (two documents) should be submitted to the following mail: km3net-TNA@km3net.de.

All submitted proposals will be assessed by a Program Committee (PC) composed of international experts in the field. The KM3NeT Collaboration is strongly committed to ensuring that the review of proposals is performed in an equitable and fair manner. To this end, the PC will evaluate proposals using dual-anonymous peer review. Under this system, not only are proposers unaware of the identity of the members on the review panel, but the reviewers do not have explicit knowledge of the identities of the proposing team until after the evaluation and rating of all proposals is complete. The objective of dual-anonymous peer review is to minimize the impact of implicit or unconscious bias in the evaluation of the merit of a proposal.

KM3NeT available data

Depending on the complexity of the proposed analysis and the data required for it, KM3NeT ay offer different levels of data:

* Calibrated event list (reconstructed events). These events will have been reconstructed using current standard KM3NeT procedures. This data may require proprietary software for analysis.
* Neutrino/Cosmic Ray event lists (selected events)
* Related Monte Carlo simulation events. If relevant for the analysis, the Monte Carlo neutrino and muon events may also be provided to estimate detector response and performance (including Instrument Response Functions).
* Final Scientific products. This includes the main scientific products of searches performed by the Collaboration (i.e. number of signal and background events, *p*-value, upper-limits) using tools available in the Collaboration. These searches can be made using online or offline analysis tools.

The data will be provided on a best effort basis, including the best calibration and software version at the time of the request. The data will be provided in simple files (txt, root, h5 format). If needed, expertise to analyse and interpret the data will be provided by KM3NeT members either in the ACME expertise centers (cf ACME part) or directly with KM3NeT members associated with the proposals. External members will not be part of the KM3NeT Collaboration and therefore will not have direct access to its internal documentation/software. In ACME, a support center may also provide help (https://support.acme-astro.eu/).

So far, the KM3NeT Collaboration can offer access to offline data from the ARCA19 and 21 configurations (July 2022 to October 2024), while for ORCA, we can offer access to offline data from ORCA6 to ORCA18 (January 2020 to March 2024). For more recent data, it is possible to get access to online data with the current data-processing limitations.

ACME Transnational Access Program

Further information on this funding action dedicated to the observations with the KM3NeT telescopes can be requested to Mathieu Lamoureux (lamoureux@apc.in2p3.fr).

The ACME project (https://www.acme-astro.eu/) enables transnational access (TA) on the basis of scientific merit to a wide range of complementary astroparticle, high energy and astronomical Research Infrastructures to perform new science of multi-messenger astrophysics.

Transnational access to KM3NeT is provided to selected user-groups of one or more researchers, with the majority of the users working in EU and/or Associated Countries and NOT AFFILIATED WITH FRENCH or ITALIAN INSTITUTES. The access includes the logistical, technological and scientific support and the specific training. Additionally financial support for travel and accommodation could be offered for selected user(s).

Only user groups that are allowed to disseminate the results they have generated under this program may benefit from the access. Publications based on the TA programme should be acknowledged accordingly:

> Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or of the European Research Executive Agency (REA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them. ACME project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe Research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 101131928

Contact/support: km3net-TNA-support@km3net.de