

SCIENCE4PEACE @DESY



Is military research the future at DESY?

The commitment to civil and peaceful research is in the [mission statement](#), and the statutes require that "the results of our research work must be published or otherwise made available to the general public."

On 17th of June 2024, it was [announced](#) at the staff meeting by the DESY Board of Directors that there are thoughts to open DESY up to military research in the future. Reference was made to a [position paper](#) of the BMBF, which questions the strict separation between civil and military research in Germany.

In an email from the 23rd. July to the staff, it was discussed whether, in addition to the civilian use of PETRA III / IV, the use in the context of security, militaryness and defensive readiness can also be permitted.

But research for military purposes would have a big impact:

- first of all, the publication obligation would be abolished;
- there would be special security measures that affect access for permitted groups of people as well as publication practice, and the open campus as we know it today would no longer exist;
- the attractiveness of DESY would be reduced because because people who want to work purely in civilian, non-military institutions will cease to apply for work at DESY.;
- the free international exchange with scientists from many countries would no longer be possible in this form.



Of course, scientific results, when published, can be applied in different areas. However, the nature of research shifts significantly depending on whether it's conducted for civilian or military purposes

No in-house research on military projects

In the meantime, it has become clear that military research at DESY itself (in-house research) will be very difficult - at the moment! But what happens to military research from external groups at DESY? The mission statement of DESY also applies to them. Even if results are also used for military purposes, it is still essential that research is carried out with a civilian, non-military objective. Once external groups have no obligation to do research for civilian, non-military and, at best, peaceful purposes, it will become much easier to also allow in-house military research down the line.

Why all this?

Yes, we live in difficult times. There are more wars today than ever before, and they are waged with tremendous brutality. In every war, many people die, there are countless and cruel crimes, and the people who have experienced and survived all this will no longer be able to lead a normal life.

We all want there to be no wars and violence, and we have to do something to achieve a more peaceful world. Our country is involved in more military conflicts than ever before.

But, there is an alternative against war and confrontation: at CERN, the European Centre for Particle Physics, military research is excluded. There, the central idea is to use the language of science to build bridges and to reduce tensions and establish trust through international cooperation.

DESY has a great responsibility to society. The responsibility is to use scientific cooperation to bring people from different countries and areas together, to show that peaceful research on an equal footing is possible and successful together. Examples such as SESAME and the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra show that this is possible and very important.

DESY employees have great experience in working with other countries. We should use our experience and help ensure that there is a common peaceful future for the people here in Europe and worldwide.

We demand that

- cooperations are expanded, not dismantled;
- peaceful cooperation and civil research with all countries is desired and also made possible;
- all research results are published;
- DESY should increase investment in science diplomacy rather than opening science to military purposes;
- DESY must preserve an open campus;
- conflict solutions beyond war, violence and the military are investigated, promoted and expanded and that DESY should make its contribution.

Science4Peace@DESY has launched a petition against the opening of civilian research facilities for military projects,

NOT IN OUR NAMES!



<https://science4peace.com/science4peacedesy/>

When many sign, we set a sign against militarization.

The flyer with links is available under:

<https://science4peace.com/science4peacedesy/S4P-DESY-Events/Entries/2024/8/s4pdesy-flyer.html>

On the 4th September 2024, Science4Peace organizes a panel discussion with the topic:

Opening civil research facilities for military projects - contributions to a discussion at DESY

<https://science4peace.com/Public-Events/index.html>

