

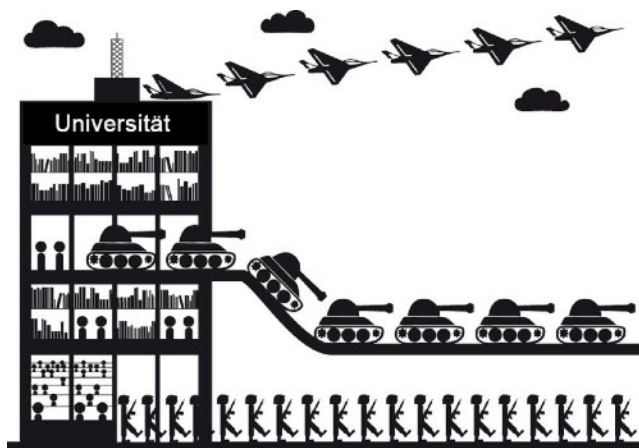


Military research at DESY?

The [mission statement](#) of DESY states: "*Our research serves civil and peaceful purposes*" and the statutes require that "*the results ... be published or otherwise made available to the general public.*"

Many of us were shocked when it was announced at the [staff meeting](#) on June 17 by the DESY Directorate that there are thoughts to open up to military research in 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 of the directorate from July 23 to all staff, it was considered whether, in addition to the civilian use of PETRA III / IV, the use in the context of security, defensiveness and defensive readiness can also be considered.



Of course, scientific results, when published, can be applied in different areas. However, explicit dual-use research has so far not been carried out (as far as we know).

Research for military purposes means:

- the publication obligation would be abolished;
- the free international exchange with scientists from many countries would no longer be possible in this form;
- special security measures that regulate access for permitted groups of people; the open campus would be history;
- the attractiveness of DESY would be reduced because people who want to work purely in civilian, non-military institutions will cease to apply for work at DESY;

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 can also be used for military purposes, it is still essential that the research is carried out with a civilian, non-military objective. Once the focus on **civil, non-military and peaceful research** falls for external research groups/projects, it becomes much easier to allow in-house military research at DESY. Third-party funding could pose concerns and should be addressed with caution.

It can also be done differently:

Military research is excluded at CERN, the European Centre for Particle Physics. There, the central idea is to use the language of science to build bridges and to reduce tensions and establish trust through international cooperation.

Examples such as SESAME and the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra show that it is possible to successfully bring people from different countries and areas together.

DESY bears a great responsibility towards society. This responsibility should be using scientific cooperation to show that joint, peaceful research is possible and successful. DESY employees have great experience in working with colleagues from other countries. We should use our experience and contribute to a common peaceful future for the people of Europe and the world.

We demand:

- a binding civil clause for DESY, which excludes military research;
- to publish all research results;
- to preserve the DESY open campus;
- to expand cooperations instead of dismantling them;
- to promote and enable peaceful cooperation and research with all countries;
- to invest more in science diplomacy instead of opening science to military purposes;
- to research, promote and expand conflict solutions beyond war, violence and the military and that DESY contributes to this.

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

Not In Our Name!

<https://www.science4peacedesy.de/Petitions/index.html>

When many sign, we set a sign against militarization.

The flyer with links is available under::

<https://www.science4peacedesy.de/Events/Entries/2024/8/s4pdesy-flyer.html>



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

Against the opening of civil research facilities for military projects - contributions to a discussion at DESY

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

