

The coming months are critical for the Einstein Telescope candidacy in the Meuse–Rhine Euroregion. All signals are positive, but nothing has been secured yet. While we remain optimistic, we wish to clearly emphasize this reservation.

Here is an overview of the latest developments. Results from various feasibility studies are being consolidated. At the same time, several studies are still ongoing, and their findings will be analyzed in the near future. Meanwhile, the bidbook team is working at full speed to finalize the bidbook by the end of 2026.

Even once the bid book has been submitted and the official bid has been confirmed, we're not there yet. However, there is competition from Sardinia and Saxony, which are also eager to host the Einstein Telescope. The ten European countries supporting the project will decide on the location in the second half of 2027.

Where in the Euroregion?

The most frequently asked question at this stage is: where exactly in the border region between Dutch Limburg, Flanders, and Wallonia will the underground Einstein Telescope be built?

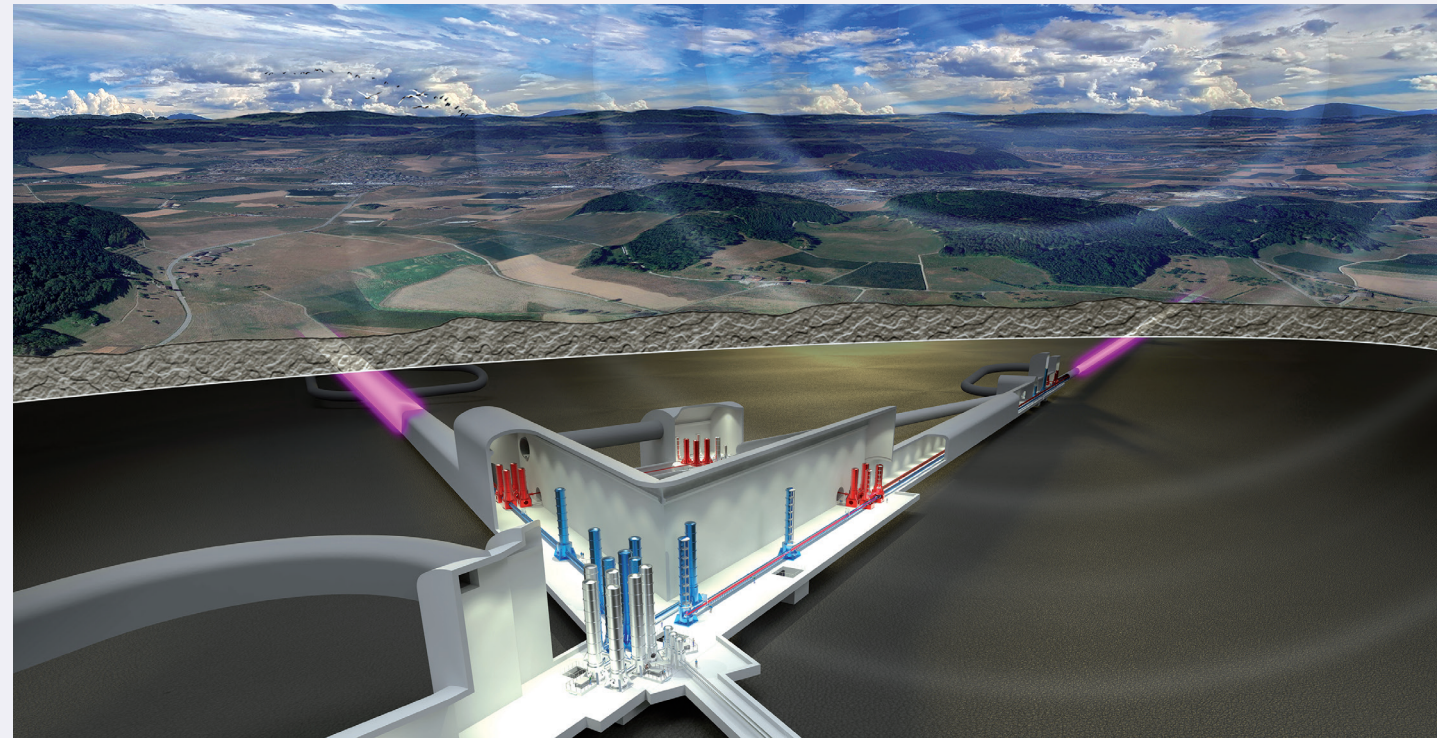
An answer is expected within the coming months. To support feasibility, additional seismic noise studies are planned. Their results will be combined with hydrological findings on impacts to water management. Together with the results of deep drilling, this will provide a comprehensive picture of the suitability of the subsurface.

Is the subsurface the only key factor?

No. Studies on environmental impacts and construction methods are equally important. The combination of subsurface and "above-ground" research will ultimately determine the most suitable location.

Environmental impact

In December 2025, the Einstein Telescope EMR project



office and Landscape Park Bocageland signed a charter to jointly develop a regional vision.

The guiding principle is that, if the Einstein Telescope is built here, the landscape should be improved after construction compared to its current state.

This principle also applies to municipalities within the study area that are not part of the Bocage organization (Bocageland: Voeren, Dalhem, Plombières, Aubel, Gulpen-Wittem, Eijsden-Margraten, and Vaals).

We are already examining how to prevent emissions, vibrations, and noise in air, water, and soil during both construction and operation. Accessibility of the area during a potential construction phase is also an important consideration.

Everyone's participation

In addition to regular communication about project developments, we have engaged experts from Hasselt University to assess how residents perceive the Einstein Telescope.

Do you see opportunities for your municipality? Do you have concerns, and if so, what are they?

Best of sustainability practices

From the outset, our goal has been to build the Einstein Telescope in the most sustainable way possible. This also applies to the construction phase, which is expected to last around eight years. Several studies have been commissioned to support this. A report currently being finalized examines how and to what extent excavated soil from tunnel construction

can be reused. Can it be used in the telescope's construction itself, or for other purposes such as housing, road infrastructure, or dike reinforcement?

Energy

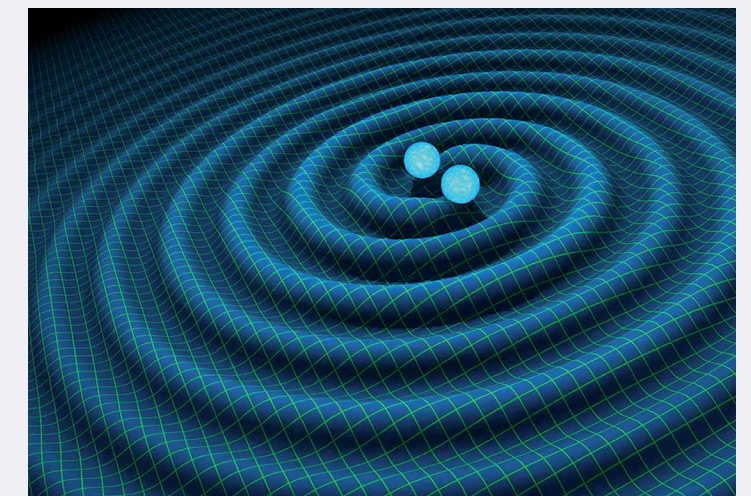
Another report, whose results are expected soon, focuses on the use of sustainable energy for the Einstein Telescope. It explores ways to use renewable energy without impacting the region's regular energy consumption. The telescope's operational energy consumption is comparable to that of a medium-sized hospital.

Transport

For some time now, we have been exploring sustainable rail transport solutions for the construction phase. The Montzen rail yard (municipality of Plombières) has been identified as a potential hub.

This would involve transporting excavated soil away and bringing in construction materials, significantly reducing the number of truck movements.

As part of this study, a possible role for the autonomous port or Trilogiport of Liège has also been examined.



Do you have a question? Feel free to drop by!

Where in our border region will the Einstein Telescope be built? And when will a decision be made? These are logical questions, but all answers are not yet clear. That is why we prefer not to speculate. However, we can imagine you may have other questions for us. That's why we are organizing an upcoming series of walk-in Q&A sessions. These are informal moments without a fixed program or presentations, where you can simply drop by with your questions. And we hope to answer them on the spot!

Where and when?

Check the schedule at: www.einsteintelelescope-emr.eu/en/meetings/. Dates, times, or locations may change at any time, sometimes at short notice. Please double-check before attending.

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info@et-emr.eu

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