



27 January 2026
NOVA Science/financial report
Re: W-336, "National MMA Community Day part I: CTAO/KM3NeT synergies"

Dear Michiel,

As agreed, this financial report now covers both National CTAO/KM3NeT/Astroparticle community meetings that took place on 8 September and 4 November, 2025, in Amsterdam (Nikhef) and Leiden (SRON), respectively.

The programs of both meetings are attached, as well as the participants lists, although please note that unfortunately for the first meeting the Indico form did not ask if names could be shared thus only a few names are displayed, while for the second meeting 13 are not shown. However you can see that both meetings were well-attended with over 50 participants from across the Netherlands Astronomy and Physics communities.

Both meetings were all day meetings, bringing together the Dutch community with an interest in CTAO and its synergies with other facilities of national interest, as well as transient and multi-messenger science. For each meeting we also invited several external speakers, which is where most of the costs were incurred.

The theme of the first meeting was to inform the community about CTAO progress but also to grow the interest in CTAO from, and synergies with, the astroparticle physics/KM3NeT communities, which is why the meeting was hosted by Nikhef. We had external speakers:

Gloria Maria Cicciari (University of Palermo): she has been leading the study within the CTAO consortium for how neutrino events will be followed up by CTAO. This topic connects strongly with the high-energy transients communities (radio/OIR/X-ray) and helped raise awareness of the potential for multi-messenger followup campaigns.

Tim Unbehaun (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg): he has been leading the work within CTAO/KM3NeT collaborations to produce a pipeline for joint analysis. This is of very high interest to all modelling groups who will want to be able to jointly fit theoretical scenarios to multi-messenger data.

Richard White (MPI für Kernphysik, Heidelberg): Richard is the project lead for the CTAO small telescopes (SSTs), which comprises the main Dutch hardware contribution to CTAO, for the camera back-ends, funded by NWO and NOVA over the years and which is the in-kind contribution we hope to leverage into CTAO membership. Richard gave an update on the camera production and testing, which is currently underway in the lead-up to first light.

The meeting also had several talks by Dutch scientists, including lightning talks to introduce groups and contributed talks. We also had a discussion led by Nikhef Director Jorgen D'Hondt, about how CTAO fits into the wider Dutch national astroparticle strategy. The meeting was seen as very successful and led to several new collaborations and discussions such as some cross-talk between Nikhef and the NOVA R&D groups.

Based on the success of this meeting we organised a second followup, this time aimed more at the wider astronomy community and which took place at SRON. We had two external invited speakers: \

Roberta Zanin, CTAO Project Scientist (CTAO, Bologna) who spoke about the project as a whole and in particular the planning for first light and early science data rights.

Lea Marcotulli (DESY): a leading multi-wavelength/multi-messenger scientist who spoke about the potential of CTAO for wider classes of transients.

In addition we had a discussion again on the community strategy, led by the SRON Head of Astrophysics Terri Brandt, which illustrated the broader enthusiasm across the Netherlands for having access

to CTAO data. There were also several talks by Dutch scientists highlighting synergies with cosmic rays, LISA and other space missions.

Overall the high attendance of the meetings as well as the significant fraction of younger scientists illustrates the potential for CTAO to grow into a thriving community, and interest is very high in gaining access to the data via joining the ERIC. Based on the turnout and engagement at this meeting, we heard positive responses from other community leaders in attendance about the potential of CTAO science.

We are grateful to NOVA for helping subsidise the costs of these meetings. In the end because Nikhef and SRON contributed the rooms and catering/lunch, and because the CTAO funds could cover Roberta Zanin's costs, our total costs were lower than anticipated. Rather than splitting the costs of both meetings, in the end it was easier for NWO to cover the costs of the first meeting, for the second meeting we have just:

Marcotulli flight, accommodation and meals: 783,38€, plus the 2nd conference dinner 305,15€ so the total to reimburse API is **1088,53€**.

I hope this is sufficient, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any other questions or need more information! Thank you again for helping us organise the meetings.

Sincerely yours,



Sera Markoff

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