

# Scientists in Germany seek to find mass of neutrino

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Researchers in Germany have started collecting data with a 60 million euro (\$71 million) machine designed to help determine the mass of the universe's lightest particle.

Physicists, engineers and technicians at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology hope the 200-metric ton (220-ton) device will narrow down or even pinpoint the actual mass of [neutrinos](#). Those are sometimes called "ghost [particles](#)" because they're so difficult to detect.

Scientists with the Karlsruhe Tritium Neutrino experiment, or [KATRIN](#), said Monday they'll be taking measurements "well into the next decade" and hope to produce "high-impact results."

Researchers say determining the [mass](#) of neutrinos is one of the most important open questions in particle physics and will help scientists better understand the history of the universe.

Some 200 people from 20 institutions in seven countries are working on the project.

**More information:** Press release: [phys.org/wire-news/290240092/n-t-precise-scale.html](https://phys.org/wire-news/290240092/n-t-precise-scale.html)

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