

STATUS OF THE H.E.S.S. PROJECT

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The H.E.S.S. (High Energy Stereoscopic System) collaboration is currently constructing a system of imaging atmospheric Cherenkov telescopes at a site in the Khomas Highland of Namibia, in the southern hemisphere. In its first stage, H.E.S.S. will include four telescopes with about 100 m² mirror area and 15 m focal length, equipped with cameras of 5° field of view, and 0.16° pixel size. The system will provide an energy threshold for gamma-ray spectroscopy of about 100 GeV and a sensitivity in the 10 mCrab range. The telescopes are scheduled to go into operation in the years 2001 and 2002. The paper will give an overview of the design of the telescopes, of the construction status, and of the expected performance.