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VHE gamma-ray observations of starburst galaxies with H.E.S.S.

D. NEDBAL[1], W. BENBOW[2], K. BERNLÖHR[2,3], J. HINTON[4], M. LEMOINE-GOUMARD[5] FOR THE H.E.S.S. COLLABORATION.

[1] *Institute of Particle and Nuclear Physics, Charles University, V Holesovickach 2, 180 00, Prague 8, Czech Republic*

[2] *Max-Planck-Institut für Kernphysik, P.O. Box 103980, D 69029 Heidelberg, Germany*

[3] *Institut für Physik, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Newtonstr. 15, D 12489 Berlin, Germany*

[4] *School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Leeds, U.K.*

[5] *CENBG - CNRS - IN2P3, France*

nedbal@ipnp.troja.mff.cuni.cz

Abstract: Starburst galaxies are characterized by extremely high star-formation rates and, as a consequence, very high supernova rates. These rates, as well as the gas density, are orders of magnitude higher than in our Galaxy. Such an environment contains both a high cosmic ray flux and high density of target material for pp and inverse compton interactions. These objects are therefore viable candidates for observable levels of VHE gamma-ray mission. Several starburst galaxies have been observed with H.E.S.S. stereoscopic array of atmospheric-Cherenkov telescopes. Results will be given in the post-conference version of the proceedings.