

ALICE at LHC: getting ready for Physics

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ALICE - A Large Ion Collider Experiment has been constructed to study, in an optimized and dedicated approach, the physics of nuclear matter under extreme conditions of temperature and density. This program is carried out by a collaboration of more than 1000 physicists and engineers from presently 105 institutions.

The status of the experiment, its instrumentation and its performance capabilities will be described.

The ALICE physics potential will be illustrated by discussing the early proton and heavy ion physics program and a few benchmark processes such as heavy quark jets, charmonia and thermal radiation.