

# Status and perspectives of the OREO (ORiEnted calOrimeter) project

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It is well known that inside an oriented crystal a strong acceleration of the e.m. shower development is observed, if a high energy ( $> 10$  GeV)  $e^\pm$  or photon impinges within  $0.1^\circ$  from one of its crystallographic axes. This phenomenon can be exploited to develop novel ultra-compact calorimeters, capable of containing the energy of the incident particles as efficiently as much thicker non-oriented detectors, with an improved particle identification capability. Such a calorimeter has never been developed before, but the INFN ORiEnted calOrimeter (OREO) project is now aiming at assembling a first prototype composed of oriented  $\text{PbWO}_4$  crystals. This contribution will present the status of the OREO project and the results of both numerical simulations and beamtests, performed at the CERN PS and SPS with a  $3 \times 1$  and a  $2 \times 2$  matrix of oriented  $\text{PbWO}_4$  crystals. We will also discuss the potential application of such a detector in fixed target experiments and  $\gamma$ -ray telescopes.

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