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Status of the NEXT experiment

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NEXT is an experimental program to search for neutrino double beta decay events using a High Pressure Gas Xenon Chamber with electroluminescence readout. The first phase of the experiment will use 100 kg of Xenon gas enriched to 91% in the 136Xe isotope. NEXT-100 is currently under construction at Canfranc Underground Laboratory (Spain). The detector is an asymmetric time projection chamber with a plane of PMTs and a tracking plane of SiPMs located after an Electro-Luminiscence grid. It boasts an excellent energy resolution, 0-5–0.7% FWHM at the Q value of the 136Xe, and event topological information to identify signal and background. The status of the project, as well as the results obtained with NEXT large EL prototypes (NEXT-DBDM and NEXT-DEMO) will be presented, as well as the prospects to extrapolate the technique to the ton scale.

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