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First experience with the ATLAS Muon Spectrometer

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The ATLAS experiment at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN is currently being assembled to be ready to take first data in fall 2007. Its muon spectrometer is designed to achieve a momentum resolution of better than 10% at pμ = 1 TeV. The spectrometer consists of one barrel and two endcap superconducting air-core toroid magnets and is instrumented with three layers of Monitored Drift Tube chambers (Cathode Strip Chambers in the extreme forward region) as precision detectors. Resistive Plate Chambers in the barrel and Thin Gap Chambers in the endcap regions form a dedicated trigger system. We report on our experience with the commissioning and installation of the precision and trigger chambers. First results of the cosmic ray test of the barrel muon spectrometer with and without magnetic field are presented, including results of the calibration of the MDT chambers and the spectrometer alignment.

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