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Status of the NICA heavy-ion project at JINR

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The main physics goal of the NICA project at JINR (Dubna) is experimental study of the fundamental properties of the QCD matter by the relativistic heavy-ion collisions. The new accelerator complex NICA will provide a broad range of ion beams (from protons to gold nuclei) at energies from 1 to 4.5 GeV per nucleon. The data taking will start in 2017 at the fixed-target BM@N experiment at the Nuclotron with a further extension of the exploration range to CM energies of 4-11 GeV after putting the NICA collider into operation. Multi-Purpose Detector (MPD) at NICA is a versatile device designed for the study of multiple fascinating dynamical phenomena in heavy-ion collisions including event-by-even fluctuations and correlations.
In my report I will discuss the main objectives of the NICA physics program and overview the current status of the project realization

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