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## Development of an Ba<sup>++</sup> ion source for the Barium Tagging Program of the NEXT experiment

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Double beta decays in Xe-136 result in the production of a Barium ion. In gas phase it is expected that a Ba<sup>++</sup> ions is produced. Tagging Ba<sup>++</sup> becomes thus, an unmistakable signature of the decay and can lead to a background-free neutrinoless double beta decay experiment. In this poster a Ba<sup>++</sup> ion source based on a fs laser is presented. Such a source can be used as a part of the Barium Tagging program of the NEXT experiment.

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