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Prospects for heavy-ion physics with the MPD detector at NICA

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The main scientific goal of the NICA project at JINR (Dubna) is the experimental exploration of the QCD phase diagram in the region of the maximum baryonic density. Systematic measurements of the production of hadrons, leptons, and light (hyper)nuclei at the NICA collider will be conducted with the MultiPurpose Detector (MPD), which comprises efficient tracking and powerful particle identification in a high track density environment. I my talk, I will discuss the NICA/MPD physics objectives and overview progress in detector construction. A theoretical motivation will be accompanied by results of realistic Monte-Carlo simulation of the proposed experimental setups.

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