

## The African LaBr Array - ALBA

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A project to increase the  $\gamma$ -ray detection efficiency of the iThemba LABS setup was recently funded by the South African National Research Foundation (NRF). This project will result in the acquisition and installation of the  $\gamma$ -ray detector array ALBA (African LaBr Array), composed of 23 large volume LaBr<sub>3</sub>:Ce. The array could be used as a stand-alone gamma-ray spectrometer as well as coupled to the K600 spectrometer or to silicon-detector arrays for the particle identification.

This unique experimental setup would allow for new generation of studies where the  $\gamma$ -decay probability has been too low to be investigated with the arrays currently available worldwide. The study of the giant and pygmy resonances as well as the investigation of the nuclear level density and gamma strength function are of particular interest.

The first five detectors of ALBA arrived in December 2018 and they are now being characterised in term of energy/time resolution and efficiency. The project and the preliminary results will be presented.

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