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## Status of the NICA Project at JINR

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The NICA (Nuclotron-based Ion Collider Facility) project is now under active realization stage at the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research (JINR, Dubna). The main goal of the project is an experimental study of hot and dense strongly interacting matter in heavy ion (up to Au) collisions at centre-of-mass energies up to 11 GeV per nucleon. Two modes of operation is foreseen, collider mode and extracted beams, with two detectors: MPD and BM@N. In the collider mode expected average luminosity is  $10E27 \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  for Au(79+). The fixed target experiment BM@N at the JINR superconducting synchrotron Nuclotron is in preparation stage. Extracted beams of various nuclei species with maximum momenta 13 GeV/c (for protons) will be available. The NICA project also foresees a study of spin physics with extracted and colliding beams of polarized deuterons and protons at the energies up to 26 GeV (for protons). The proposed program allows to search for possible signs of the phase transitions and critical phenomena as well as to shed light on the problem of nucleon spin structure.

### Summary

**Primary author(s)** : Prof. KEKELIDZE, Vladimir (Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna)

**Co-author(s)** : Prof. KOVALENKO, Alexander (Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna); Prof. SORIN, Alexander (Joint Institute for Nuclear Research); Prof. TRUBNIKOV, Grigory (Joint Institute for Nuclear research, Dubna); Prof. MESHKOV, Igor (Joint Institute for Nuclear research, Dubna); Prof. LEDNICKY, Richard (Joint Institute for Nuclear research, Dubna); Prof. MATVEEV, Viktor (Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna)

**Presenter(s)** : Prof. KEKELIDZE, Vladimir (Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna)

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