The Cherenkov Telescope Array Project

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The Cherenkov Telescope Array (CTA) Project is a global effort to contruct a proposal-driven observatory for photon astronomy at the highest energies. The scientific scope of CTA is extremely broad: from understanding the role of relativistic cosmic particles in astrophysical environments to the search for dark matter. CTA is an explorer for the extreme universe, probing environments from the immediate neighbourhood of black holes to the cosmic voids on the largest scales. Covering a huge range in photon energy from 20 GeV to 300 TeV, CTA will improve on all aspects of performance with respect to current instruments, including order of magnitude improvements in sensitivity and collection area. CTA is currently in an advanced prototyping phase, with construction expected to begin next year. In this talk I will give an overview of the scientific capabilities of CTA and report on the status of the project.