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**The ATLAS experiment at the LHC: Status and Physics Prospects**

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The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN is now scheduled to begin operation late in 2009 at proton energies of 3.5 TeV. The LHC will open up a new energy regime in high-energy particle physics and it is likely that discoveries made at the experiments that analyse the LHC data will change the way we understand our universe. I will review the readiness of the ATLAS experiment for proton-proton collision data at the LHC, and the prospects for the much anticipated physics that will result from these collisions.

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