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FRAM telescopes and their measurements of aerosol content at the Pierre Auger Observatory and at future sites of the Cherenkov Telescope Array

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A FRAM telescope is a system consisting of a robotic mount, a large-format CCD camera and a fast telephoto lens that can be used for atmospheric monitoring at any site whenever information about the atmospheric transparency is required with high spatial or temporal resolution and where continuous use of laser-based methods for this purpose would interfere with other bservations. The original FRAM has been operand at the Pierre Auger Observatory in Argentina for more than a decade, while three more FRAMs are foreseen to be used by the Cherenkov telescope array (CTA). The CTA FRAMs are being deployed ahead of time to characterize the properties of the sites in advance of the operation of the CTA Cherenkov telescopes; one FRAM has been running on the planned future CTA site in Chile for a year while two others are expected to enter operation before the end of 2018. We report on the hardware and current status of operation and/or deployment of all the FRAM instruments in question as well as on some of the preliminary results of integral aerosol measurements by the FRAMs in Argentina and Chile.

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