



Contribution ID: 159

Type: **oral**

## The SWGO project: status and perspective

*Wednesday, 25 September 2024 09:00 (25 minutes)*

The Southern Wide-field Gamma-ray Observatory (SWGO) is the project to plan and design the next ground-based observatory to detect gamma rays in the Southern Hemisphere. The experiment will be based on water Cherenkov detector units and placed at an altitude greater than 4,400 m in the Andes, to measure gamma rays from a few hundred GeV up to the PeV scale. SWGO will complement CTA and the existing ground-based particle detectors of the Northern Hemisphere, namely HAWC and LHAASO, delivering a rich science programme. The SWGO collaboration is approaching the conclusion of the project R&D, having crossed all major milestones towards the definition of the array design and location, with prototype detector units being currently delivered and tested at altitude sites in South America. In this talk I will present an overview of the project R&D activities and current status, looking forward to the preparatory steps for the start of SWGO construction in the coming years.

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**Session Classification:** III Plenary