



Contribution ID: 78

Type: **not specified**

## Prototyping Phase of the BAIKAL-GVD Project

*Thursday, 23 May 2013 13:00 (20 minutes)*

The construction of a km<sup>3</sup>-scale neutrino telescope –the Gigaton Volume Detector (GVD) in Lake Baikal –is the central goal of the Baikal collaboration. During the R&D phase of the GVD project in 2008–2010 years the basic elements of GVD –new optical modules, FADC readout units, underwater communications and trigger systems –have been developed, produced and tested in situ by long-term operating prototype strings in Lake Baikal. The Prototyping Phase of the GVD project has been started in April 2011 with the deployment of a three string engineering array which comprises all basic elements and systems of the GVD-telescope in Lake Baikal. This array has been continuously upgraded in 2012 and 2013. We review the results obtained during the Prototyping Phase of the BAIKAL-GVD project realization.

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**Session Classification:** IV Plenary Session