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INFN Camera demonstrator for the Cherenkov Telescope Array

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The Cherenkov Telescope Array is a world-wide project with the aim of exploring the highest energy region of the electromagnetic spectrum.

Two arrays will guarantee the full sky coverage in the energy range from few tens of GeV to hundreds of TeV, with improved angular resolution and a sensitivity in the TeV energy region better by one order of magnitude than the currently operating arrays. Three different telescope types have been envisaged, with different mirror sizes and focal plane features. A silicon photomultiplier (SiPM) based camera is being proposed as a solution to match the pixel angular size of ~ 0.17 degrees.

INFN is developing a camera demonstrator made by 9 Photo Sensor Modules (PSMs, 64 pixels each, total coverage $\sim 1/4$ of the full focal plane) equipped with FBK (Fondazione Bruno Kessler, Italy) Near UltraViolet High Fill factor SiPMs and a Front-End Electronics (FEE) based on Target 7 ASIC, a 16 channels fast digitizer (up to 2GS/s) with buffer and self-trigger capability specifically developed for this purpose. The pixel dimension of $6 \times 6 \text{ mm}^2$ leads to a very compact design with challenging problems of thermal dissipation.

A modular structure, made by copper frames hosting one PSM and the corresponding FEE inserted in an aluminium structure, has been conceived, with a water cooling system to keep the required working temperature. The actual design, the adopted technical solutions and the achieved results for this demonstrator are presented and discussed.

Collaboration

G. Ambrosi, M. Ambrosio, C. Aramo, C. Bigongiari, E. Bissaldi, M. Bitossi, S. Brasolin, G. Busetto, R. Carosi, R. Consoletti, F. Dazzi, A. de Angelis, B. De Lotto, F. de Palma, R. Desiante, T. Di Girolamo, C. Di Giulio, F. Di Pierro, M. Doro, G. Ferraro, F. Ferrarotto, F. Gargano, N. Giglietto, F. Giordano, G. Giraud, M. Iori, F. Longo, M. Mariotti, N. M. Mazziotta, A. Morselli, R. Paoletti, G. Pauletta, R. Rando, G. Rodriguez Fernandez, A. Stammer, C. Stella, A. Tonachini, P. Vallania, L. Valore and C. Vigorito for the CTA Consortium.

Primary author: PAOLETTI, Riccardo (SI)

Presenter: PAOLETTI, Riccardo (SI)

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