

Welcome to VERITAS!

Contributed by Web Master

Saturday, 12 June 2004

Last Updated Wednesday, 04 November 2009

VERITAS (Very Energetic Radiation Imaging Telescope Array System) is a new major ground-based gamma-ray observatory with an array of four 12m optical reflectors for gamma-ray astronomy in the GeV - TeV energy range . The telescope design is based on the design of the existing 10m gamma-ray telescope of the Whipple Observatory. It consists of an array of imaging telescopes deployed such that they permit the maximum versatility and give the highest sensitivity in the 50 GeV - 50 TeV band (with maximum sensitivity from 100 GeV to 10 TeV). This VHE observatory will effectively complement Fermi. Check out the VERITAS Sensitivity page for the most up to date information on VERITAS or review our our Recent Results section. New! VERITAS Telescopes Help Solve 100-Year-Old Mystery: The Origin of Cosmic Rays Picture of the new array layout with Telescope 1 relocated. Click on the image for a larger version.

VERITAS Information:

- Design is based on Whipple Telescope
- 39 feet aperture
- 350 mirrors on each dish
- 499 pixel camera on each telescope
- Each telescope has 3.5 deg field of view
- 50 GeV to 50 TeV Energy Range

VERITAS Science:

- black holes at the centres of active galaxies
 - pulsars
 - gamma-ray bursts
 - supernova remnants
 - globular clusters
- galaxies including our own Milky Way Galaxy.
- ### Important Dates:
- April 2003: Installation of VERITAS prototype telescope at the FLWO Basecamp
 - 15 February 2004: First light of VERITAS prototype
 - 1 January 2007: Completion of 4 telescope array
 - April 27-28 2007: First Light Celebration

Funding Agencies:USA

- Department of Energy
- National Science Foundation
- Smithsonian Institution
- NSERC
- Enterprise Ireland
- United Kingdom
- PPARC