

## **Prospects for the LHC heavy-ion programme in the coming decade**

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The first heavy-ion run of the LHC in 2010 opened up a new energy frontier in nucleus-nucleus collisions. An immediate harvest of physics results demonstrated the potential of the collider and its three heavy-ion experiments, ALICE, ATLAS and CMS. The plan for the coming decade foresees not only increasing energy and luminosity of the primary Pb-Pb collisions but also hybrid p-Pb and Ar-Ar collisions. The programme is defined by the physics requirements, the limits from beam physics and accelerator technology in the LHC and its heavy-ion injector chain, compatibility with the p-p programme and the planning of upgrades and modifications to the CERN accelerator complex.

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