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Neutrino Telescope Baikal-GVD: Status and Nearest Future

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The progress in the construction and operation of the Baikal Gigaton Volume Detector in Lake Baikal is reported. The detector is designed for search for high energy neutrinos whose sources are not yet reliably identified. It currently includes over 3500 optical modules arranged on 98 strings, providing an effective volume of 0.6 km3 for cascades with energy above 1 PeV. We review the scientific case for Baikal-GVD, the construction plan, and first results from the partially built experiment, which is currently the largest neutrino telescope in the Northern Hemisphere and still growing up.

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