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## Status of the BEST\* project (Baksan Experiment on Sterile Transitions)

The very short-baseline neutrino oscillation experiment BEST is currently under construction at the Baksan Neutrino Observatory of the Institute for Nuclear Research RAS. The experiment will use an upgraded Gallium-Germanium Neutrino Telescope (GGNT) and an artificial  $^{51}\text{Cr}$  neutrino source with activity  $\sim 3 \text{ MCi}$  to search for transitions of active neutrinos to sterile states with  $\Delta m^2 \sim 1 \text{ eV}^2$ . The sensitivity to disappearance of electron neutrinos is expected to be a few percent.

Construction of a set of new facilities, including a two-zone tank for irradiation of 50 tons of Ga metal with the intense  $^{51}\text{Cr}$  source, as well as additional modules of the GGNT counting and extraction systems, is close to completion. Before beginning Ga measurements with a  $^{51}\text{Cr}$  source the new facilities will be used for SAGE solar neutrino measurements. Agreement of the results of these measurements with the results obtained in the long-term measurements of the solar neutrino capture rate by SAGE will serve as an independent check of the new systems.

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