

Geneva atom smasher set for record collisions

March 29 2010

(AP) -- The world's largest atom smasher is ready to start a new era of science by colliding beams of protons to learn more about the makeup of the universe and its smallest particles.

Scientists say the [Large Hadron Collider](#) could reveal details about theoretical particles and postulated microforces.

Two beams of protons began 10 days ago to speed at high energy in opposite directions around the 27-kilometer (17-mile) tunnel under the Swiss-French border at Geneva.

The beams have been pushed to 3.5 trillion electron volts, the highest energy yet achieved.

The operators plan to start Tuesday trying to force protons in the beams to collide so that they can study the showers of particles that result.

©2010 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Citation: Geneva atom smasher set for record collisions (2010, March 29) retrieved 10 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2010-03-geneva-atom-smasher-collisions.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
