TECHNICAL PERFORMANCE OF THE HEGRA IACT SYSTEM

G. Pühlhofer (1), A. Kohnle (1), O. Bolz (1) and the HEGRA-Collaboration (2)
(1) Max-Planck-Institut für Kernphysik, Heidelberg, D-69117 Germany.
Gerd.Puehlhofer@mpi-hd.mpg.de

Since the beginning of 1997, the HEGRA collaboration has run a stereoscopic system of 4 (later 5) imaging Cherenkov telescopes on the Canary Island La Palma. In this paper we show the basic calibration schemes and results which were developed and applied for the system. Key features are the continuous sensitivity monitoring with an accuracy of a few percent, the absolute pointing accuracy of 25 arcsec, and an absolute energy calibration with an accuracy of 15 percent. The sensitivity monitoring has shown that the energy threshold of the system with a nominal value of 500 GeV (low zenith angles) has not exceeded 600 GeV throughout the whole operational time.