VHE gamma-ray observations of starburst galaxies with H.E.S.S.

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Abstract: Starburst galaxies are characterized by extremely high star-formation rates and, as a consequence, very high supernova rates. These rates, as well as the gas density, are orders of magnitude higher than in our Galaxy. Such an environment contains both a high cosmic ray flux and high density of target material for pp and inverse compton interactions. These objects are therefore viable candidates for observable levels of VHE gamma-ray mission. Several starburst galaxies have been observed with H.E.S.S. stereoscopic array of atmospheric-Cherenkov telescopes. Results will be given in the post-conference version of the proceedings.