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# 25 Years of RHIC Operations

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The Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC) at Brookhaven National Laboratory began operation 25 years ago, initiating a program of high-energy ion collisions that has since evolved in remarkable ways. Within a few years, polarized proton collisions were introduced, and over the following decades RHIC continuously expanded its capabilities—achieving higher luminosity, greater polarization, and a wide range of ion species and operating modes. As RHIC now enters its final physics run, its hadron injectors, one of its collider rings, and its technical infrastructure are being prepared to support the next major facility, the Electron-Ion Collider. We reflect on 25 years of RHIC operations and highlight the key performance advances that made its success possible, particularly the impact of stochastic and electron cooling.

### **Footnotes**

## **Funding Agency**

# I have read and accept the Privacy Policy Statement

Yes

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