Causing lightning with lasers

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The result of a European (French-German-Swiss) cooperation, the Téramobile Project allowed for the first ever creation of micro-discharges in a storm cloud thanks to a laser: a new step for triggering lightning.

Téramobile brings together most notably researchers from the applied optics lab (CNRS/École nationale supérieure des techniques avancées/École Polytechnique/Université Paris 11) and the Ionic and Molecular Spectrometry Laboratory (CNRS/Université Lyon 1).

The results, obtained after experiments on the ground, are published on the web site of the journal *Optics*.

Learn more by reading the CNRS press release.