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Scientists announced Thursday that they believe a subatomic particle discovered last year is indeed the Higgs boson, or "God particle," they have been searching for.

"The preliminary results with the full 2012 data set are magnificent and to me it is clear that we are dealing with a Higgs boson though we still have a long way to go to know what kind of Higgs boson it is," said Joe Incandela, spokesperson for the CMS physics team, in a statement.

The findings were announced during the Moriond Conference, a gathering of physicists in the Italian Alps.

CMS and ATLAS, two teams at the European Organization for Nuclear Research, have analyzed two and a half times the data that was available back in July when an announcement about the possible discovery was made. Researchers say the particle fits the characteristics of Higgs bosons in terms of both its quantum properties and the way it interacts with other particles.

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