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Prospects for the first ttbar cross section measurement in the semileptonic channel at CMS

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The top quark was discovered at the Tevatron in 1995. For the last decade the study of its properties has been a major theme in the worldwide experimental high energy physics program. The advent of the LHC opens up a new era in top quark physics; because of the large ttbar cross-section and the high luminosity, the LHC can be thought of as a top factory.

Here we report on studies of top quark pair production with the CMS detector. Special emphasis is given to the early cross section measurement in the channel where the W boson from one top quark decays into lepton (electron/muon) and neutrino, while the other decays into quark and anti-quark.

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