The Compressed Baryonic Matter experiment at the future FAIR facility aims to explore strongly interacting matter at large baryon densities as prevailing in the core of neutron stars where symmetries of QCD are expected to be restored and new phases of matter are predicted to exist. The experiment is designed to address these topics by high rate precision measurements of observables employing hadronic and leptonic probes. Key measurements and their status will be explained. Preparatory steps towards the installation and running of the full experiment in the framework of the so called FAIR Phase-0 program will also be discussed.