



Fig. 2: Map of the rock laboratory with the planned extension in green.

The planning of the extension took into account that, on the one hand we would like to carry out the new experiments in the sandy facies of the Opalinus Clay (found in the southern part) and, on the other hand, we would like to avoid disturbing the ongoing demonstration experiments in the northern part of the laboratory. Therefore we positioned the new experiments in ca. 600 m of new tunnels and niches in the southern part of the rock lab shown in Fig. 2. Since early 2017, swisstopo has worked with GGT (Groupe Grands Travaux), Canton of Jura, to prepare the tender documents for the construction of the new tunnels. This is an open procedure following the Swiss Federal Government's rules for public procurement. The schedule for the call for tenders, publication on www.simap.ch (Swiss electronic platform for public procurement purposes), and the award schedule are included in the table below.

What	Who	When
Elaboration of tenders	Planners, swisstopo	January-May 2017
Publication of the tenders on simap.ch	swisstopo	15. June 2017
Deadline for submitting offers	Contractors	24. August 2017
Decision on the awards	Mont Terri Consortium, swisstopo	12. October 2017
Publication of the awards on simap.ch	swisstopo	20. October 2017
Start of excavation	Contractors	Begin 2018
Completion of construction work	Contractors	End 2019

Start of excavation for the extension is scheduled for 2018. The first experiments will begin already during the expansion with a “mine-by” test to detect hydraulic and rock mechanical changes during construction. In 2019, the extended laboratory will be handed over to the research partners.

The visitor centre of the Mont Terri rock laboratory offers a two-hour guided tour for interested persons (groups of 10 or more). We welcome visitors during the extension work but for security reasons, please expect some hinderances and visit times limited by excavation schedules. You can already now register via www.mont-terri.ch!