



Mont Terri Project

Rock Laboratory

ANDRA BGR CHEVRON CRIEPI DOE ENRESA ENSI FANC GRS HELMHOLTZ IRSN JAEA NAGRA NWMO OBAYASHI RWM SCK•CEN SWISSTOPO TOTAL

Information about the organisation of the Mont Terri project

The Mont Terri project is an international platform for carrying out research into deep geological storage in clay formations. [19 project partners](#) from Switzerland, Europe, the United Kingdom, the USA, Canada and Japan are participating in the research programmes at the Mont Terri rock laboratory, which is situated in opalinus clay. The laboratory is located to the north of St-Ursanne at a depth of around 300 metres below the surface, and is accessible via the safety galleries of the Mont Terri tunnel on the A16 (Transjurane) motorway.

The Mont Terri rock laboratory offers more realistic test conditions than is the case with conventional laboratory studies. Experiments can be carried out here on a 1:1 scale and provide essential knowledge about the safety and feasibility of [deep geological disposal](#).

The 19 project partners discuss the results of current experiments, offer advice on how to carry out new experiments and decide how to [fund](#) them. Every year, each partner can decide in which experiments to participate.

The Mont Terri [project partners](#) have organised themselves into a consortium – the Mont Terri Consortium – whose legal basis is the 2001 Agreement signed by the then Federal Office for Water and Geology and the project partners. At the end of 2005 the Federal Office for Water and Geology was disbanded and the Federal Office of Topography's (swisstopo's) Swiss Geological Survey took its place. On 1 January 2006, swisstopo assumed responsibility for the operation of the entire Mont Terri project, including the "2001 Agreement" which specifies the rights and obligations between the Mont Terri research partners and swisstopo as operator.

The rock laboratory is operated by the Swiss Geological Survey, which is a unit of swisstopo. Its main tasks include the operation of the rock laboratory, the implementation of the research programme and ensuring the safety of personnel below ground. In accordance with the cantonal mining rights, the canton of Jura owns the rock formations in and around the laboratory, while the access routes are the responsibility of the Swiss Federal Roads Office (FEDRO). The Cantonal Supervisory Committee examines the research programmes submitted each year by swisstopo for the attention of the government of the canton of Jura, which in its turn is responsible for authorising each programme. The respective rights and obligations of swisstopo and the Canton of Jura are regulated by the [2009 Convention](#) and the respective rights and obligations of swisstopo and FEDRO are regulated by the [2009 Accord](#).

The organisation and functions of the various Mont Terri Project stakeholders are set out in an organisation chart.