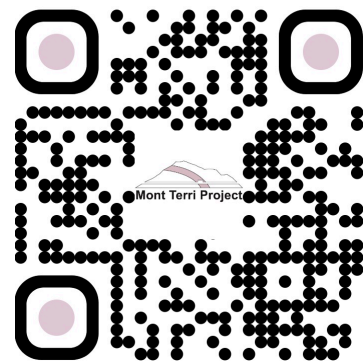


Mont Terri Project

Underground Rock Laboratory

Report period: May 4–10, 2026

Assembled and edited by swisstopo, St-Ursanne



Spotlight of the week: On Monday, Cyrill Lötscher started in Mont Terri as our new civil servant. He is a trained pharmaceutical assistant and eager to learn more about geology and applied earth sciences. He started by helping the Deborah sampling team and we are happy to have him here! (Fig. J. Windisch)

CD-A (Influence of Humidity on Cyclic and Long-Term Deformations) experiment

- On Friday, May 8, N. Rentsch and C. Lötscher (swisstopo) measured the lengths and the apertures of cracks in both Twin Niches to understand the cyclic deformation and possible deterioration of gallery walls. (Figure 1)

CL (CO2LPIE-CO2 Long-Term Periodic Injection) experiment

- On Wednesday, May 6, S. Schefer (swisstopo) set all Eh and pH probes to monitoring mode.

DB-B (Deep Borehole to resolve the Mont Terri Anticline Hydrogeology) experiment

- From Monday to Friday, May 4–8, the sampling teams of GFZ, BGR and NWS treated cores from a big variety of different members inside the Staffelegg and Klettgau Formation. (Figure 2)
- From Monday to Saturday, May 4–9, the Stump team continued drilling HQ from 647 m down to 774 m into the Trigonodus dolomite. After 272 core runs they reached the end of the HQ section and pulled all rods.
- On Saturday, May 9, D. Fischer and M. Frädrich (Terratec) performed logging on the newly drilled HQ section from 535–601 m. The lower part until 774 m could not be accessed and will be logged next week.

DR-C (Diffusion in a Thermal Gradient) experiment

- On Tuesday, May 5, S. Schefer and J. Windisch (swisstopo) took sample #8 from sampler 2 from BDR-C1 and BDR-C6 and measured the pH. Contamination tests showed no activities above background.

DR-D (Heterogeneity of Sandy Facies by Geophysical Characterization and Diffusion Studies) experiment

- On Tuesday, May 5, S. Schefer and J. Windisch (swisstopo) took sample #8 from BDR-D3 (sampler #2) and measured the pH. Contamination tests showed no activities above background.

FE-M (Long-Term Monitoring of the Full-Scale Emplacement Experiment) experiment

- On Friday, May 8, J. Windisch (swisstopo) refilled the calibration bath with 75 L of water.

HT (Hydrogen Transfer in Opalinus Clay) experiment

- On Monday, May 4, S. Schefer (swisstopo) emptied the Tedlar bag attached to the BHT-1 system.

LT (Long-Term Monitoring) experiment

- On Friday, May 8, N. Rentsch and C. Lötscher (swisstopo) measured the changes of the x/y/z axis of the joint meter in Niche EZ-B and at the main fault in Ga98.

Mont Terri URL experiment

- On Wednesday, May 6, 40 palettes from different important drilling campaigns were delivered by the Swiss army from Hochdorf to St-Ursanne. N. Rentsch, C. Lötscher, P. Hayoz, J. Windisch and S. Schefer (swisstopo) unloaded, labeled and stored the drill cores inside the National Core Storage.

SW-A (Large-Scale Sandwich Seal in Opalinus Clay) experiment

- On Thursday, May 7, J. Windisch (swisstopo) refilled the HPT from shaft 1.

Visits

Day	Date	Group Name	Group Size	Visitors Guide
Fri	8.5.2026	Université De Genève	30	C. Etter (swisstopo) M. Abdelouhabi (freelance)
Sat	9.5.2026	Universität Freiburg In Breisgau	20	M. Rahn (ENSI)

Figures



Figure 1: CD-A: Crack measures inside Niche Open Twin (S. Schefer, swisstopo)



Figure 2: DB-B: Receiving the last HQ core from the top of the Schinznach Formation (F. Kästner, GFZ)