

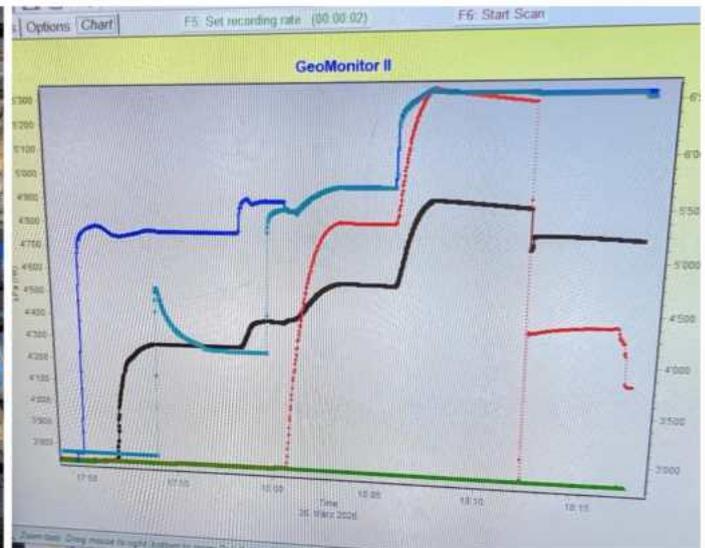
Mont Terri Project

Underground Rock Laboratory



Report period: March 23–29, 2026

Assembled and edited by swisstopo, St-Ursanne



Spotlight of the week: In the section between 170 and 407 metres, hydraulic tests were carried out at three different locations in the DEBORAH borehole by solexperts. To this end, solexperts used a double packer system, which was lowered into the borehole on a string. The work was supervised and monitored by NWS, BGR and GFZ. The presumed aquifers in this section proved to be completely impermeable, and no reliable water samples could be obtained even when significant differential pressures were applied. The team is hoping for more favourable conditions in the deeper part of the DEBORAH borehole. (Fig. S. Schefer, swisstopo)

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

- On Friday, March 27, N. Rentsch, J. Sanglard and S. Schefer (swisstopo) measured the leveling fixpoints inside the Twin Niches. (Figure 1)

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

- On Monday, March 23, J. Windisch (swisstopo) restarted the computer of the acoustic emissions system.
- On Wednesday, March 25, D.Jaeggi (swisstopo) switched back all pH and Eh probes to bypass mode.

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

- On Monday, March 23, Stump inserted all the rods to clean the hole down to 407.75 m. They removed the crown and installed a casing shoe before putting the protective casing down to 173 m. This allows for safe logging of the rest of BDB-B1.
- On Tuesday, March 24, M. Groh, J. Kück, M. Töpfer and S. Pierdominici (OSG GFZ) performed logging inside BDB-B1 from 173-407 m. They measured mud parameters (T, P, RES), Spectral Gamma Ray, Dual Latero Log, Full-Wave Sonic, DIP and Micro Resistivity Imaging.
- On Wednesday, March 25, M. Ensmenger and W. Voigt (BBi) performed gamma-gamma and neutron-neutron logs inside BDB-B1. The top 173 m were measured through the casing, from 173-407 m in the open hole. Radiation protocol was enforced by S. Schefer (swisstopo) and controlled on site by F. Muller (SUVA). (Figure 2)
- From Thursday to Friday, March 26-27, K. Kontar, C. Areomar, R. Schär and M. Celik (Solexperts) performed three hydrotests at different depths inside BDB-B1. F. Kästner (GFZ), R. Davey (NWS) and R. Kringel (BGR) supervised the tests and were prepared to take water samples. Unfortunately the limestone formations above the Opalinus Clay were completely tight and no samples could be taken. (Figure 3)

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

- On Tuesday, March 24, J. Windisch (swisstopo) refilled the calibration bath with 20 l of water.
- On Thursday, March 26, N. Rentsch and J. Sanglard (swisstopo) refilled all the buckets for the calibration bath.
- On Friday, March 27, S. Schefer (swisstopo) and S. Tuñón (Amphos21, remotely) tested the UPS of heaters 2 and 3.

FS-B (Imaging the Long-Term Loss of Faulted Host Rock Integrity) experiment

- On Tuesday, March 24, J. Windisch (swisstopo) changed the nitrogen bottle attached to the constant pressure injection into BFS-B2.

MH (Long-Term Monitoring of Heaves and Displacement) experiment

- On Friday, March 27, N. Rentsch, J. Sanglard, C. Etter and S. Schefer (swisstopo) performed the leveling on the five fixpoints related to the tiltmeters along Ga18.

SM-C (Permanent Nanoseismic Monitoring) experiment

- On Wednesday, March 25, J. Windisch (swisstopo) on behalf of E. Meier (EMP) switched the input plugs from the HLS and the seismometer into the Quanterra Q330S datalogger. This helped resolving the noise we saw on the HLS.

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

- On Tuesday, March 24, J. Windisch (swisstopo) changed the nitrogen bottle of shaft 1.
- On Friday, March 27, S. Schefer (swisstopo) refilled the HPT from shaft 1.

Varia

- After four weeks of civil service, J. Sanglard returns to his daily job as civil engineer. We thank you very much for all your help and wish you the best of luck!

Visits

Day	Date	Group Name	Group Size	Visitors Guide
Tue	24.3.2026	Seniorenuniversität Bern	32	A. Möri (swisstopo) S. Schefer (swisstopo)
Tue	24.3.2026	Nuclear Waste Services, UK	9	D. Jaeggi (swisstopo) O. Leupin (Nagra) R. Schneeberger (Nagra)
Thu	26.3.2026	Université De Lausanne	11	C. Etter (swisstopo)
Fri	27.3.2026	Geosphere Österreich	4	H. Müller (swisstopo)
Fri	27.3.2026	ETH Zürich, Engineering Geology	11	T. Vietor (Nagra)
Sat	28.3.2026	Groupe Olivier Desboeufs	12	J.-P. Meusy (freelance)

Figures



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

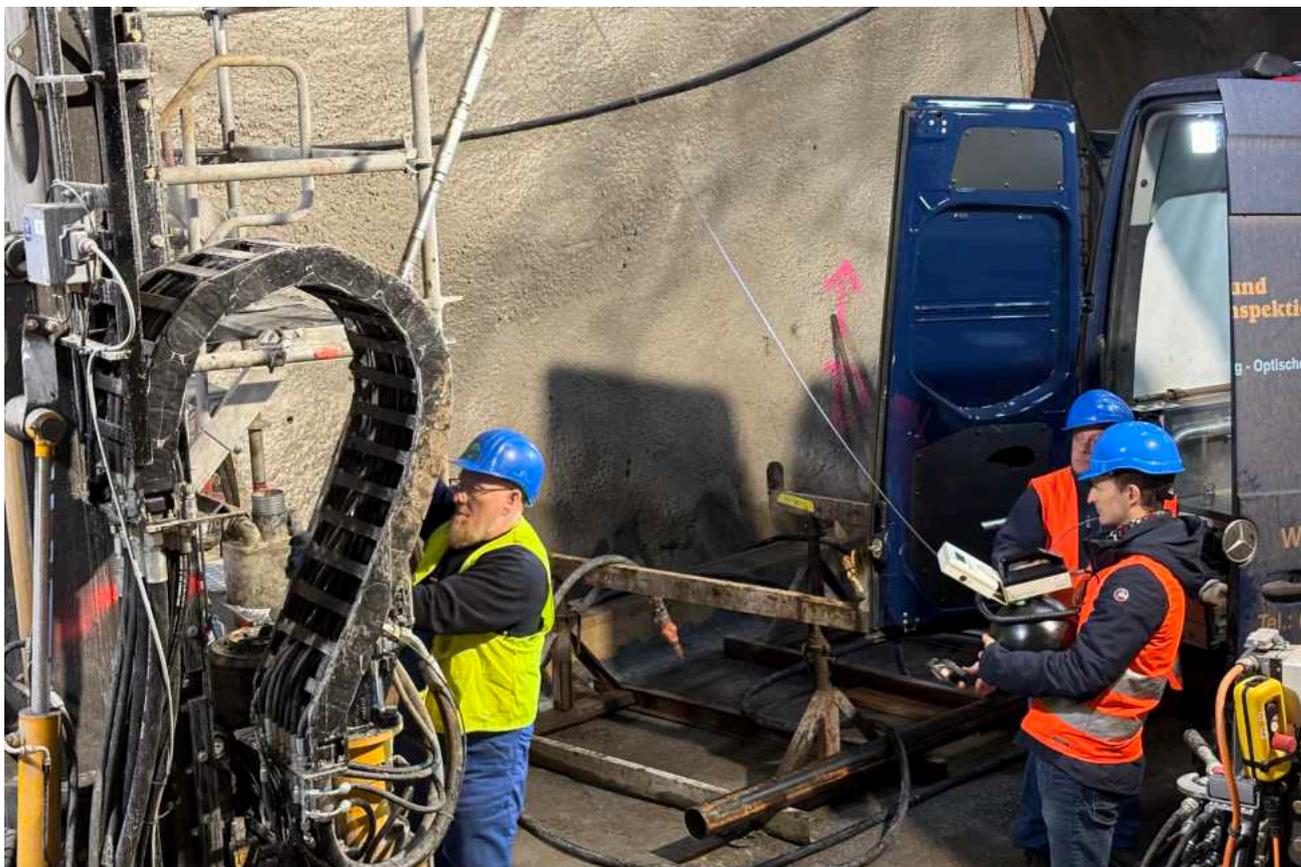


Figure 2: DB-B: Inserting the neutron-neutron probe into BDB-B1. The big black ball measures the amount of neutrons in the working distance. Everything is safe. (S. Schefer, swisstopo)



Figure 3: DB-B: Waiting on the first hydrotest. All the rods still need to go down the hole. (S. Schefer, swisstopo)