Mont Terri Project
Underground Rock Laboratory

Report period: October 5–25, 2026

Assembled and edited by swisstopo, St-Ursanne



Spotlight of the week: Who is lurking in the autumnal forest, watching humans with calm and curiosity? Our colleague Iouri Semenov had an encounter with this magnificent lynx that was as rare as it was exceptional. The animal was strolling quietly along the road leading to our buildings before darting back into the forest, sitting down and watching the person who managed to take its photograph, as if it had tacitly agreed to pose. The lynx population in the Jura Mountains is estimated at around 86 individuals, according to the website www.kora.ch

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

- On Tuesday, October 20, J. Windisch and S. Schefer (swisstopo) reconnected the lost PSS sensors.
- On Tuesday, October 20, S. Schefer (swisstopo) restarted the ERT measurements.

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

- On Monday, October 12, J. Windisch (swisstopo) took two water samples from BCL-11.
- On Monday, October 19, J. Gisiger (Solexperts) remotely increased the injection pressure in BCL-11_I2 by 0.2 MPa to 2.6 MPa. The work was supervised by D. Jaeggi (swisstopo).

DR-C (Diffusion in a Thermal Gradient) experiment

- On Friday, October 23, S. Schefer (swisstopo) inserted two new vials into the circuits of BDR-C1 and BDR-C6.

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

- On Friday, October 23, S. Schefer (swisstopo) inserted two new vials into the circuit.

PF-A (Progressive Evolution of Structurally-Controlled Overbreaks: Long-term monitoring, hydromechanical simulation and rock testing) experiment

- On Friday, October 16, A. Rinaldi (ETHZ) and M. Ziegler (swisstopo) corrected a wrong setting in the BOTDA strain acquisition of line 2. In addition, TW_COTDR measurements were conducted and a new zero reference defined.

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

- On Thursday, October 8, R. Nicol (swisstopo) refilled the HPT of shaft 1.
- On Thursday, October 15, J. Windisch (swisstopo) refilled the HPT of shaft 1.
- On Thursday, October 22, S. Schefer (swisstopo) refilled the HPT of shaft 1.

TE (Aquifer Thermal Energy Storage in Fractured Limestone) experiment

- From Tuesday to Wednesday, October 13–14, A. Eul and A. Stoppeich (Eul GmbH) re-drilled BTE-1 through the cement, installed a casing and cemented the annulus.
- On Thursday, October 15, M. Ziegler, J. Windisch (swisstopo) and A. Spelina (ETHZ) set up the core treatment and core logging tools at the BTE-01 drill site. Core logging will start in the coming week and will be conducted by A. Spelina who is carrying out his M.Sc. project within the frame of the TE experiement. (**Figure 1**)
- From Monday to Friday, October 19–23, A. Eul and A. Stoppeich (Eul GmbH) drilled BTE-1 down to 51 m. A. Spellina (ETHZ) documented, mapped and scanned the cores. (**Figure 2**)

Varia

- From Tuesday to Wednesday, October 13–14, Due to a unexplainable power outage in the server room, the servers were shut down in the night. J. Windisch and S. Schefer (swisstopo) with the help of technicians from groupe e restarted everything. It should be working properly again now, however please check your data acquisition systems, as the data from the laboratory also passes through the concerned servers.
- On Thursday, October 15, we welcomed A. Spelina (Geology Master student at ETHZ) who will stay with us for a month during the BTE-1 drilling campaign. He is responsible for core treatment, mapping and data processing. (**Figure 3**).
- On Wednesday, October 21, a group of Swiss Jura specialists from the Stratigraphic Commission led by P. Jordan, visited the core repository at Mont Terri to discuss the stratigraphy of the lower Hauptrogenstein and the Passwang Formation, based on the DEBORAH borehole. D. Jaeggi (swisstopo) explained the drilling process and the lessons learned, and B. Hostettler (NMBE) presented the detailed stratigraphy of the aforementioned sections - a task that will likely necessitate the definition of new members. (**Figure 4**).

Visits

Day	Date	Group Name	Group Size	Visitors Guide
Mon	5.10.2026	**EPFL Gruppe Microbiologie**	13	T. Guillemot (Nagra)
Tue	6.10.2026	**Nationales Begleitgremium NBG**	23	H. Sager (Nagra)
Wed	7.10.2026	**ETH Zurich, VCS**	16	R. Nicol (swisstopo)
Wed	14.10.2026	**Gruppe PSI**	27	H. Sager (Nagra)
Fri	16.10.2026	**Elektro Schumacher GmbH**	11	R. Nicol (swisstopo)
Fri	16.10.2026	**Gruppe Radiochemie Labor PSI**	25	O. Leupin (Nagra)

Figures



Figure 1: TE: A. Spelina and M. Ziegler discussing optical core logging (R. Nicol, swisstopo)



Figure 2: TE: The drill site in P2. Drilling on the right and geology on the left hand side (S. Schefer, swisstopo)



Figure 3: Varia: Welcome to the windy Security Gallery! (J. Windisch, swisstopo)



Figure 4: Varia: Discussing the cores from Deborah. (D. Jaeggi, swisstopo)