Mont Terri Project Underground Rock Laboratory

Report period: November 11–17, 2024

Assembled and edited by swisstopo, St-Ursanne





Spotlight of the week: On Friday 15 November, a team from RTS (Radio Télévision Suisse) led by Federal Palace correspondant Pierre Nebel, interviewed Christophe Nussbaum in the laboratory. The interview will be broadcast in the evening news on Tuesday 19 November. On that day, nagra will submit its general licence application to the authorities, in accordance with the timetable set out in the Swiss sectorial plan. It is in this context that the journalist wishes to explain the contribution of research in the Mont Terri rock laboratory to the preparation of the general licence application. Extensive media coverage is expected on the day, particularly in the German-speaking part of Switzerland.

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

• From Wednesday to Friday, November 13–15, S. Costabel (BGR) performed the seasonal NMR-measurements on the wall of both Twin Niches. He was assisted by M. Abdelouhabi (swisstopo) (Figure 1).

DR-E (Long-Term Diffusion Experiment in the Main Fault-Zone) experiment

- On Thursday, November 14, S. Schefer (swisstopo) took samples #7 from the injection fluid out of both boreholes BDR-E1 and BDR-E2.
- On Friday, November 15, T. Theurillat (swisstopo) closed the trenches for boreholes BDR-E1 and BDR-E2 (Figure 2).

SI-C (Seismic Imaging of the Mont Terri Anticline) experiment

• From Wednesday to Friday, November 13–15, S. Lüth and B. Wawerzinek (GFZ) performed passiv seismic measurements on top of the laboratory at the surface in Outremont and Brunefarine (Figure 3).

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

• On Friday, November 15, S. Schefer (swisstopo) refilled the HPT of both shafts.

Varia

• On Thursday, November 14, the yearly national "future day" took place, giving children the chance to visit their parent's workplace for one day. We were happy to also have a young scientist visiting us (Figure 4).

Visits

Day	Date	Group Name	Group Size	Visitors Guide
Tue	12.11.2024	WING Switzerland (Women In Geothermal)	13	M. Abdelouhabi (swisstopo) R. Nicol (swisstopo)
Thu	14.11.2024	PSI, Jürgen Kallfass	5	H. Sager (Nagra)
Fri	15.11.2024	RTS Téléjournal, Pierre Nebel	2	C. Nussbaum (swisstopo)
Fri	15.11.2024	GE Vernova	11	R. Nicol (swisstopo)

Figures



Figure 1: CD-A: Fixing the NMR mouse on the wall (S. Schefer, swisstopo).



Figure 2: DR-E: T. Theurillat is fixing the covers on the trench of BDR-E1 (S. Schefer, swisstopo).



Figure 3: SI-C: All the equipment is ready for the passiv seismic acquisition (D. Jaeggi, swisstopo).



Figure 4: Varia: Inspecting a borehole with the camera gives an impression of the underground (D. Jaeggi, swisstopo).