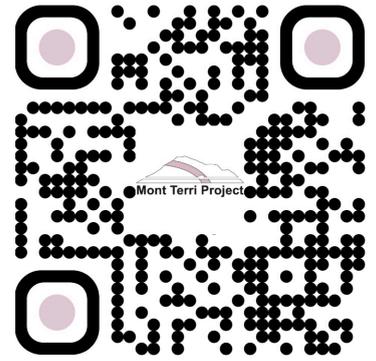


Mont Terri Project Underground Rock Laboratory



Report period: March 9–15, 2026

Assembled and edited by swisstopo, St-Ursanne



Spotlight of the week: DEBORAH: This week was a productive drilling week. On Monday we reached the Dogger (Ifenthal Formation) at 170 m, on Tuesday we changed the drill bit at 190 m (half of the PQ-section) and continued through the Herznach, Bollement, Saulcy and St. Brais Members into the Hauptrogenstein Formation (227 m). These oolitic limestones are over 100 m thick, therefore we finished the week well within at 305 m. This marks a new record for the deepest borehole ever drilled in the history of the Mont Terri Project! (Fig. S. Schefer, swisstopo)

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

- On Friday, March 13, G. Vuilleumier and N. Philipossien (Sigeom) performed laser scans inside both Twin Niches. (Figure 1)

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

- On Monday, March 9, D. Jaeggi (swisstopo) took a water sample out of BCL-9_I2. The vial was shipped to Uni Bern. He furthermore set all the Eh and pH probes to the circuit.
- On Thursday, March 12, M. Brennwald and C. Marion (EAWAG) installed the temperature sensors on the water lines, changing of one minireudi capillary, and sampling from the gas loop of BCL-09-INT02.
- On Thursday, March 12, D. Jaeggi (swisstopo) set all the pH and Eh sondes back to by-pass mode.
- On Friday, March 13, J. Windisch (swisstopo) took two water samples from BCL-11.

DR-C (Diffusion in a Thermal Gradient) experiment

- On Tuesday, March 10, S. Schefer and J. Windisch (swisstopo) took sample #6 from sampler 3 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, March 10, S. Schefer and J. Windisch (swisstopo) took sample #6 from BDR-D3 from sampler #3 and measured the pH. Contamination tests showed no activities above background.

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

- From Tuesday to Wednesday, March 10–11, J. Gisiger (Solexperts) installed a new interface to read out the vibrating wire total pressure cells installed in the FE gallery. At the same time, general maintenance was performed and unused devices dismantled.
- On Friday, March 13, S. Schefer (swisstopo) reconfigured the CR300 to be on the right network again.

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

- On Thursday, March 12, J. Windisch (swisstopo) replaced the nitrogen gas bottles to ensure a pressure of >70 and >10 bar respectively.

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

- On Wednesday, March 11, S. Schefer (swisstopo) restarted the computer for the TDR measurements on behalf of F. Königer (ISU).
- On Thursday, March 12, M. Brennwald and C. Marion (EAWAG) sampled gas samples from ES3 shaft 1 and ES3 shaft 2, and a pressurised water sample from the injection water of shaft 2.
- On Thursday, March 12, C. Marion, M. Brennwald (EAWAG) and S. Schefer (swisstopo) took a water sample (500 ml) from shaft 2.
- On Friday, March 13, J. Windisch (swisstopo) refilled the HPT of shaft 1.

Visits

Day	Date	Group Name	Group Size	Visitors Guide
Mon	9.3.2026	CEFF-PAP, Moutier	10	R. Nicol (swisstopo)
Thu	12.3.2026	EPFL Section Physique, Bachelor	43	C. Etter (swisstopo) M. Abdelouhabi (freelance) R. Nicol (swisstopo)
Wed	11.3.2026	EPFL Section Physique, Master	31	C. Etter (swisstopo) M. Abdelouhabi (freelance)

Figures



Figure 1: CD-A: Laser scanning of the open Niche (J. Windisch, swisstopo)