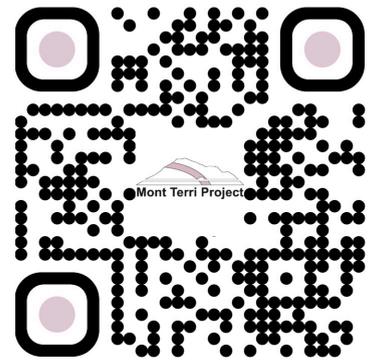


# Mont Terri Project Underground Rock Laboratory

Report period: February 16–22, 2026

Assembled and edited by swisstopo, St-Ursanne



**Spotlight of the week: DEBORAH:** The sampling crew is ready for the very first core from BDB-B1. In the upcoming weeks, scientists from GFZ, BGR and NWS assisted by the swisstopo team will be mud logging, mapping, scanning and sampling in two shifts from 6-22 h. The samples will be analyzed not only by the project team but many other scientific teams will benefit from good quality samples and logging data. We look forward to this scientific collaboration and the new insights into the Mont Terri Anticline! (Fig. S. Schefer, swisstopo).

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

- On Thursday, February 19, C. Etter and J. Windisch (swisstopo) measured the lengths and the apertures of cracks in both twin niches to understand the cyclic deformation and possible deterioration of gallery walls.

## CL (CO<sub>2</sub>LPIE-CO<sub>2</sub> Long-Term Periodic Injection) experiment

- On Thursday, February 19, D. Jaeggi (swisstopo) set back the pH and Eh sondes from bypass to monitoring mode .
- On Friday, February 20, J. Windisch (swisstopo) took two water samples from BCL-11.

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

- From Monday to Thursday, February 16–19, the sampling team was on site and optimized the set up at every station while they waited for the drilling to start.
- From Monday to Wednesday, February 16–18, the team from Stump finished the installation of the drill rig and finished all preparatory work.
- On Wednesday, February 18, BDB-B1 could finally be started at 14:45 and the first 1.1 m of core was retrieved at 15:15 to the immense joy of all the sampling crew already waiting on site (**Figure 1** , **Figure 2**).
- On Wednesday, February 18, C. Etter and J. Windisch measured the water pH, temperature, resistivity and flow at the St-Ursanne sources, river and water pump station. These measurements will be ongoing on a daily basis until the casing through the aquifer layers is safely cemented.
- On Friday, February 20, Z. Jeannerat (ATB) inspected the DEBORAH drill site. No further actions regarding safety are required.

## DR-C (Diffusion in a Thermal Gradient) experiment

- On Tuesday, February 17, Y. Lettry (Solexperts) adjusted the injection pressure and flow of BDR-C1 and BDR-C6 and increased the back pressure of packer 3 in BDR-C1.

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

- On Thursday, February 19, S. Schefer (swisstopo) together with S. Tuñón (Amphos21, remote) successfully tested the automatic mode on the heaters, but let them in manual mode until Tuesday. Heater 1 had to be slightly increased.

## IS-E (In-situ stress measurements using a novel flat jack method) experiment

- From Wednesday to Thursday, February 18–19, A. Eul and J. Eul (Eul GmbH) installed the drill rig for BIS-E2 in the ventilation cavern. Drilling together with the team from BGR will start on Monday.

## LT (Long-Term Monitoring) experiment

- On Thursday, February 19, J. Windisch and C. Etter (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.

## ML (Differentiation of Fractures and Rock Mass Deformation in Clay Rocks by Machine Learning) experiment

- From Tuesday to Friday, February 17–20, M. Teller (ETHZ) measured the deformation of EDZ's and artificial discontinuities of various old borecores for his Master thesis.

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

- On Thursday, February 19, S. Schefer (swisstopo) refilled the HPT of shaft 1.

## Visits

Day	Date	Group Name	Group Size	Visitors Guide
Fri	20.2.2026	Gruppe Brigit Kimmig	22	H. Hauser (freelance)

## Figures



Figure 1: DB-B: Emptying the core barrel (S. Schefer, swisstopo).



Figure 2: DB-B: First core of DEBORAH is out (S. Schefer, swisstopo).