

Dear Reader,

### You scientist shape this Newsletter

This Newsletter is intended for all SPS members, researchers, industries, students, interested specialists and physics friends. Feel free to share this Newsletter within your community.

You would like to share some news with this community? Please contact [Celine.Lichtensteiger@UniGe.ch](mailto:Celine.Lichtensteiger@UniGe.ch).

## WHAT'S UP IN SWITZERLAND?

### SPS Annual Meeting - Deadline for booking a room

Please note that the deadline for booking a room in the University of Geneva hostel is **FRIDAY 14 JULY midday**.

There are only a few rooms left so we strongly encourage everybody who wishes to take advantage of this special, very good value accommodation offer to book very quickly (using the registration form on the website [here](#)).

Note also that the deadline for the hotel block bookings is also approaching - you have until **21 July** to benefit from the group booking at select Geneva IBIS hotels. [\[more\]](#)



### SPS Annual Meeting - Public lecture by Thierry Courvoisier

During the [SPS Annual Meeting](#) taking place 21-25 August in Geneva, the astrophysicist Thierry Courvoisier will give a Public Lecture "*De la place de la science dans la société*".

Thierry Courvoisier was president of the Swiss Academy of Natural Sciences ([SCNAT](#)) for the period 2012-2015 and president of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences ([A+](#)) for the period 2013-2015. He is now president of the European Academies Science Advisory Council ([EASAC](#)), whose aim is to provide knowledge and scientific expertise in European decision-making processes. As president of these academies, as active space scientist and as active member of the European Science community, Thierry Courvoisier developed a clear view of the



interface between Science and Society. Do not miss his talk - in french - on **Thursday 24.08.2017 at 20:00, CIGG Room 2**. You can attend this lecture even if you are not registered to the conference. [\[more\]](#)

### Physics in Industry - Big data: ethical challenges for companies

Who we are, what we do and who we communicate with are all now routinely recorded by countless devices. This is not



targeted monitoring but rather an inherent characteristic of digital technology. In addition, data are increasingly easy to store and evaluate using ever more complex procedures.

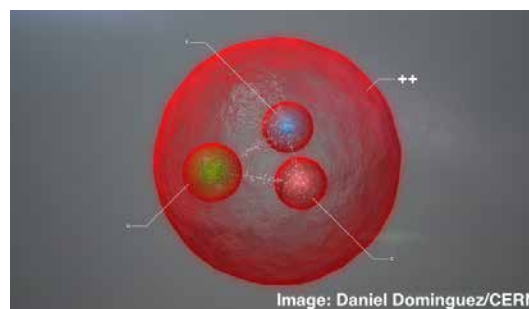
The [Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences SATW](#) presents the study "Ethische Herausforderungen für Unternehmen im Umgang mit Big Data", which explored the potential and challenges of big data applications and recommends actions for companies and for government. Full version in German. Short versions also in English and French available. In the context of the Digital Festival Zürich, a round-table discussion will be held on the evening of 14 September (in German). [\[more\]](#)



## WHAT'S UP IN EUROPE?

### High Energy Physics - LHCb announces a charming new particle

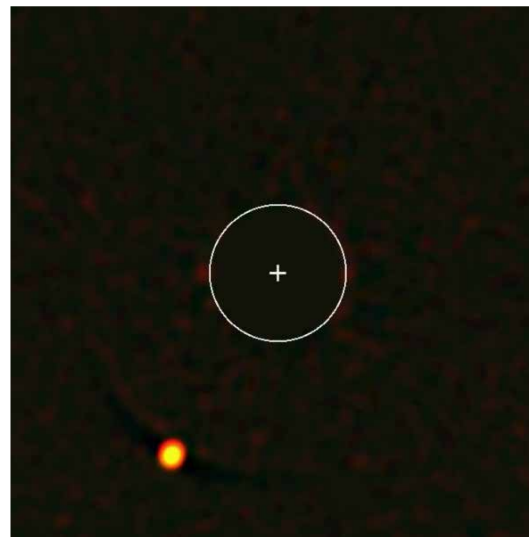
Last week at the [EPS Conference on High Energy Physics in Venice](#), the [LHCb experiment](#) at CERN's [Large Hadron Collider](#) has reported the observation of  $\Xi_{cc}^{++}$  ( $\Xi_{cc}^{++}$ ) a new particle containing two charm quarks and one up quark. The existence of this particle from the baryon family was expected by current theories, but physicists have been looking for such baryons with two heavy quarks for many years. [\[more\]](#)



## WHAT'S UP IN THE WORLD?

### Astrophysics - First discovery of an exoplanet with SPHERE/VLT

An international team of astronomers, including [NCCR-PlanetS](#) members and associates at the universities of Bern and Geneva, and at ETHZ, discovered an exoplanet by direct imaging using SPHERE, an instrument designed and developed by a consortium of 12 European institutes on the Very Large Telescope ESO, based in Chile. [\[more\]](#)



### Young Physicists - International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) 2017 in Indonesia

The 48th International Physics Olympiad will be held in Yogyakarta-Indonesia from 16 to 24 July 2017. The five gold medalists from the [Swiss Physics Olympiad 2017](#) will form the Swiss team. Among them, Julius Vering and Adrian Rutschmann, who were awarded with the special prize for the best junior physicists offered by the SPS. We wish the whole team all the best for the IPhO 2017! [\[more\]](#)



For those interested, selection for the next Swiss Physics Olympiad already starts in August. [\[more\]](#)

The Swiss Physical Society (SPS) unites persons interested in physics from university, schools, research, development and industry. The SPS promotes the scientific exchange of ideas in Switzerland and with its international environment.

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