

Dear Reader,

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, and follow this [link](#) if you want to add a person to our mailing list.

If you wish to give your contribution with news or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me at: margherita.boselli@cern.ch

Kind regards,

Margherita Boselli

WHAT'S NEW IN SWITZERLAND

The Swiss Physical Society wishes you a Merry Christmas and a successful 2025!



The SPS Communications No. 74 is available online

[SPS Communications No. 74](#), distributed in November 2024, is now available online. The highlights of this issue of our Society's journal are: the summary of the 2024 SPS Annual Meeting, the introduction of the new Board members, the obituaries of Günther Rasche and Thomas Maurice Rice, and a number of interesting contributions in the Progress in Physics section.

Save the date: SPS Annual Meeting 2025

The dates for [the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Swiss Physical Society](#) have been announced. The meeting, co-organised with the Austrian Physical Society, will take place at the University of Vienna from 18 to 22 August 2025. Save the date!

Call for Nominations for the 2025 SPS awards

In 2025, the **Swiss Physical Society** will **award seven prizes** to young scientists who have made outstanding contributions in



**Announcement of
the SPS Awards for 2025**

various fields of physics. The call for nominations is open and the **deadline for nominating potential winners is 1 March 2025**. The awards ceremony will take place during the 2025 Annual Meeting in Vienna. All information is available [here](#).

Don't miss the deadline!

In 2025 the SPS prizes, each endowed with CHF 5000, are to be awarded.

- SPS Award sponsored by the company **ABB Schweiz AG** for an outstanding scientific work in **all fields of physics**
- SPS Award sponsored by the company **IBM Research GmbH** for an outstanding scientific work in the field of **Condensed Matter Physics**
- SPS Award sponsored by the **Federal Institute for Metrology METAS** for an outstanding scientific work **with relation to Metrology**
- SPS Award sponsored by the company **COMSOL Multiphysics GmbH** for an outstanding scientific work in the field of **Computational Physics**
- SPS Award sponsored by the company **Hitachi Energy Switzerland AG** for an outstanding scientific work **with relation to Energy Technology**
- SPS Award sponsored by the company **Sensirion AG** for an outstanding scientific work in the field of **Sensing, Detection and Monitoring**
- SPS Award sponsored by the company **ID Quantique** for an outstanding scientific work in the field of **Quantum Science and Technology**

The SPS distinguishes with these awards **young physicists** for outstanding scientific work in an early phase of their career, i.e. starting during their PhD studies until at least 5 years after having defended their PhD thesis and before obtaining a tenure or tenure track academic position, or having worked in industry not longer than 5 years after their PhD defense. The achievements must either be accomplished in Switzerland, or, if abroad, funded by Swiss resources to at least 50 %, or achieved by a Swiss citizen abroad. The work is evaluated based on the criteria of scientific importance, quality and originality.

A complete nomination includes:

- **Motivation letter** of the candidate containing a description of the work understandable by non-specialists, its importance for the field, and the personal contribution of the applicant.
- **CV**, including but not limited to education and appointments, awards, leadership and achievements in research, invited talks, patents, ...
- **List of the most relevant publications** (maximum 10).
- **One to a maximum of two support letters** (by the thesis supervisor and / or an independent specialist).

These documents must be sent electronically in "pdf" format directly to the award committee (please compress very large files (zip) or make them available for download).

awards@sps.ch
Deadline: 1 March 2025

The prizes will be awarded at the Joint Annual Meeting 2025 in Vienna. The award rules are available here: www.sps.ch

Call for nominations for the Charpak-Ritz Prize 2026

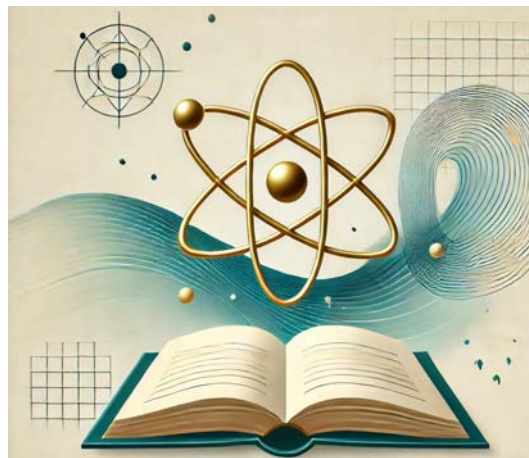
The French Physical Society and the Swiss Physical Society have created a joint prize in 2016, **the Charpak-Ritz Prize**, to encourage collaboration between the two societies. The prize will be awarded alternately to a French and a Swiss scientist. In 2026, the Charpak-Ritz Prize will be awarded to a scientist working in Switzerland. The call for nominations is open until 31 May 2025. All the information is available [here](#).



The Charles Haenny Prize for Physics

The EPFL's Institute of Physics and the Société Académique Vaudoise (SAV) recently announced that the **Charles Haenny Prize for Physics** will be awarded again in 2025, after a break of almost twenty years.

The prize is awarded in memory of Prof. Charles Haenny to a young physicist in Switzerland who has carried out an outstanding scientific work in any field of physics. Nominations are open and the **deadline is 17 March 2025**.



A tribute to the memory of Maurice Rice

Prof. Thomas Maurice Rice, Professor at ETH Zurich, Fellow of the Royal Society and Member of the National Academy, died on 18 July 2024 at the age of 85. A number of rich tributes have been published by several Swiss institutions.

A tribute to Prof. Rice was published in the **SPS Communication No. 74**, distributed in November 2024. **The MANEP network also published an article** tracing the milestones of Prof. Rice's academic career.

Image: portrait of Prof. Thomas Maurice Rice.



WHAT'S NEW IN THE WORLD

In the news: AI to improve gamma ray detection techniques

The [CTAO \(Cherenkov Telescope Array Observatory\)](#) collaboration recently published an interesting article on the use of artificial intelligence to improve the efficiency of gamma-ray detection.



[The article](#), published on the collaboration's LinkedIn page in November 2024, discusses the potential impact of AI algorithms to support real-time gamma-ray detection processes using the future CTAO data acquisition hardware.

If successful, the implementation will improve the sensitivity of data acquisition at lower energy levels, allowing a richer exploration of the mysteries of the universe.

Launch of the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology 2025

In June 2024, the United Nations declared 2025 to be the [International Year of Quantum Science and Technology \(IYQT\)](#). The year 2025 was chosen to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the development of quantum mechanics. The global physics community is encouraged to organise educational initiatives on quantum physics and technology.



The IYQ will be officially launched on 4 February 2025 in Paris. The Swiss Physical Society, together with its European counterparts, will organise and support various initiatives in the context of the IYQ.

On 14 and 15 January, the Swiss Physical Society, together with the President of the European Physical Society (EPS), will participate in the [opening ceremony of the German activities in the Quantum Year](#).

For more information on Swiss activities for the IYQ, see the editorial in the latest issue of [SPS Communications](#).

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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