

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

Charpak-Ritz prize 2025

The 2025 Charpak-Ritz Prize is awarded to **Nicolas Sangouard** for his theoretical contributions to quantum optics and information. After a rich academic career that began with a PhD in light-matter interaction, Nicolas Sangouard is now a senior researcher at the Institut de Physique Théorique in Paris-Saclay. Together with his group, they have demonstrated the role of integrating a quantum memory in a quantum computer architecture to reduce the number of processing qubits to execute large-scale algorithms.

Since 2016, the [Charpak-Ritz prize](#) is jointly delivered by the [Société Française de Physique](#) and the [Swiss Physical Society](#) to a physicist or a team for outstanding contributions to physics or its development.



Image: Portrait of Nicolas Sangouard, from IphT-Saclay.

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 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!



Announcement of the SPS Awards for 2025

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).

Launch of the IYQ event series

January 2025 marks the beginning of the [International Year of Quantum Science and Technology](#). In Switzerland and abroad, [a series of events](#) will celebrate this anniversary.



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
Quantum Science
and Technology

On January 29-31, Arosa hosted the [Swiss Quantum Days 2025](#), an event that brought together the Swiss academic and industrial quantum community. SPS Vice President Michel Calame and Past President Johan Chang attended the event. The Swiss Quantum Days 2025 are jointly organized by the [EPFL Center for Quantum Science and Engineering](#), the [Quantum Center at ETH Zurich](#), the [Geneva Quantum Center](#), the [Basel Quantum Center](#) and the [NCCR Spin](#).

From 12 to 17 January, **MANEP** organized the **2025 Winter School** in Saas Fee, this year dedicated to Quantum Materials. More information can be found [here](#).

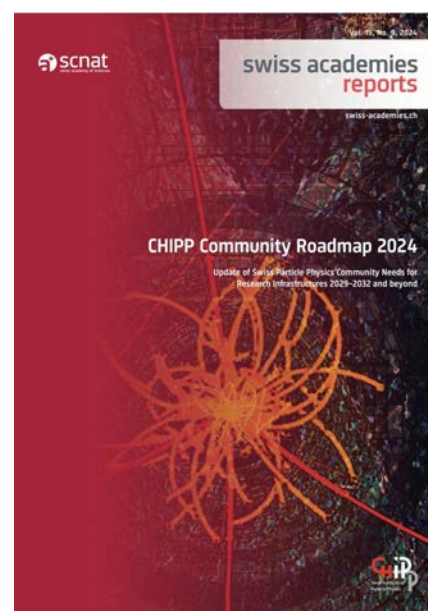
Throughout the year, [CERN's public events](#) program will focus on **quantum science**, with a series of interesting events on the menu, the first of which, entitled "**De Temps en Temps**", will take place on February 11 in the auditorium of the Science Gateway.

The University of Geneva offers a special program of meetings between scientists and schools dedicated to quantum physics as part of the interesting program "[Les cafés de l'Unige](#)".

Community Roadmaps for large research infrastructures

On behalf of the Confederation, SCNAT has published an updated version of the [eight thematic community roadmaps for 2021-2022](#). They serve as a basis for the publication of the Swiss Roadmap for Research Infrastructures 2027, which covers the period 2029-2032.

Part of these eight Roadmaps is the [research infrastructure needs of the Swiss particle physics community](#). The document presents the needs of the Swiss particle and astroparticle physics community for future national and international research infrastructures. The content of the previous roadmap can serve as a reference and provides detailed context for the updates within this document.



Henrik M. Rønnow will be the new Dean of the EPFL Basic Sciences department

The EPFL Management has decided to **appoint Prof. [Henrik M. Rønnow](#)**, currently Director of the Institute of Physics (IPHYS), as the **future Dean of Basic Sciences**, succeeding Paul Dyson. He will take office on January 1, 2027.



A former member of the Board of the Swiss Physical Society, Prof. Rønnow is an expert in low-dimensional quantum systems and has made fundamental contributions to the development of neutron scattering instrumentation.

Image: portrait of Prof. [Henrik M. Rønnow](#), picture from EPFL.

EPFL Assises



genre/numerique 2025

On 13 and 14 February 2025, the EPFL will organize the third edition of

[Assises genre/numérique: Towards](#)

[gender equality in the digital world](#). This event will bring together experts and innovators to discuss key issues related to gender and digital transformation.

Check out the [program](#) and register to participate in seminars, conversations with experts, immersive workshops and real-world case studies.



WHAT'S NEW IN THE WORLD

Special article collection of Physics Today

To celebrate the [International Year of Quantum Science and Technology](#), [Physics Today](#) has collected a **selection of articles on quantum mechanics over the years**. Some of these articles are freely available and may provide ideas for organizing events to celebrate the IYQ in our local communities.

The 2025 European Electricity Review

The energy think tank [EMBER](#) has published the **European Electricity Review 2025**. This document analyzes full-year electricity generation and demand data for 2024 in all European countries, and aims to understand the region's progress in transitioning from fossil fuels to cleaner electricity.

The report is available [here](#) and all data are available [here](#).

EMBER



**European
Electricity
Review 2025**

Creation of the ERIC CTAO

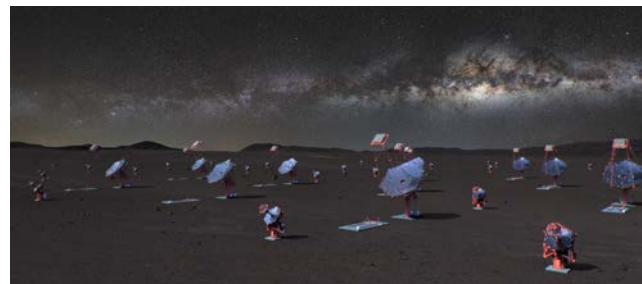
In early January, the **European Commission launched the European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) for the [Cherenkov Telescope Array \(CTAO\)](#)**.

CTAO will consist of a telescope arrays deployed in both hemispheres, in Spain and Chile, and it will be the

world's most powerful gamma-ray astronomy observatory. The creation of ERIC will accelerate the construction of the observatory and it will provide the framework to distribute its data worldwide. The CTAO ERIC was created with the support of 11 countries, including Switzerland and the European Southern Observatory. The University of Geneva coordinates the participation of Swiss institutions in the CTAO.

More information can be found [here](#).

Image: CTAO's southern hemisphere site or CTAO-South. The array is located less than 10 km southeast of the European Southern Observatory's (ESO's) existing Paranal Observatory in the Atacama Desert. Credits: CTAO.



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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