

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](mailto:margherita.boselli@cern.ch)

Kind regards,

*Margherita Boselli*

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## WHAT'S NEW IN SWITZERLAND

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### Joint Annual meeting 2025

The [next annual meeting of the SPS](#) is approaching. It will take place from **August 18 to 25 at the University of Vienna**. As every two years, this edition of the annual meeting is organized jointly with the **Austrian Physical Society (ÖPG)**.

[Registration](#) is open until **July 15, 2025**.

The [preliminary conference programme](#) will be published within the next few days.



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### Call for nominations for the Charpak-Ritz Prize 2026

The deadline to **submit nominations for the 2026 Charpak-Ritz Prize** has been extended to **July 4, 2025**.

In 2026, the prize will be awarded to a physicist or small team of physicists who have made significant contributions to their field in Switzerland.

Information about the prize and nomination procedure is available [here](#).



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### Thea Klæboe Årrestad met the Swiss Physical Society

On Wednesday, 25 June 2025, the **Swiss Physical Society** interviewed Thea Klæboe



**Årrestad** at the Open Symposium of the European Strategy for Particle Physics in Venice.

In 2025, Thea Klæboe Årrestad and Laura Zani were jointly awarded [the Young Experimental Physicist Prize of the European Physical Society](#). Thea Klæboe Årrestad, who is currently a researcher at ETH Zurich, received the award for her work, which integrated machine learning techniques into real-time data processing and event selection.

During this very interesting chat, Thea Klæboe Årrestad talked about her whole career. She described the important moments that helped her get where she is now. She also talked about what she wants to do in the future.

The full interview will be published in the next issue of the SPS Communications.

Thank you, Thea, for sharing your story and your excitement with the SPS community. Congratulations again on winning the prize!

*Image: Thea Klæboe Årrestad at the CMS experiment (image from CMS).*



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## Stellar Science Festival

On Saturday, **July 19, 2025, from 4 p.m.** on, CERN Science Gateway will host [Stellar](#), a science festival put on by IUPAP, the Swiss Physical Society, the University of Geneva and CERN.

Stellar is a special event that is open to the public and is organised during the International Cosmic Ray Conference (ICRC), which is held from July 14 to 25 in Geneva. STELLAR is meant to get young people interested in science and will also celebrate the 56th anniversary of the first moon landing.

STELLAR will feature talks by astronauts and Nobel Prize winners, giving people a chance to learn about big questions like where the Universe came from and what the future of space exploration looks like. STELLAR will also explain how tiny particles can help us understand the vast Universe and highlight some of CERN's work in this area. It will show how this science is used in the real world, like new ways to protect astronauts from radiation in space.

With hands-on activities for kids, live music, and a fun summer vibe, STELLAR is set to be a science festival for everyone.



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## CERN engineer Sławosz Uznański-Wiśniewski reached the International Space Station

On June 25, 2025, the CERN engineer **Sławosz Uznański-Wiśniewski**, now an astronaut of the European Space Agency (ESA), [left Earth for the International Space Station \(ISS\) aboard on a SpaceX Dragon spacecraft with three colleagues from the Axiom Mission 4.](#)

The Axiom Mission 4 crew took off on June 25, 2025 at 8h31 a.m. CEST from NASA's Kennedy Space Center and docked with the ISS the next day. They will spend 14 days on ISS.

Selected in 2022 from over 22500 applicants as one of the 11 members of the ESA astronaut reserve pool, Sławosz is the second Polish astronaut since 1978, and the second of a new generation of European astronauts, to fly on a commercial human spaceflight with Axiom Space. He is a mission specialist.

During the ESA mission – called [Ignis](#) – Sławosz will carry out [13 experiments](#) proposed by Polish companies and institutions and developed together with ESA. Focusing on four



key areas, this mission will contribute to advancing our understanding of human health, technology, materials science and biotechnology in space.

*Image: portrait of Sławosz Uznański-Wiśniewski, ESA project astronaut and Ax-4 mission specialist. (Image: Axiom Space).*

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## Celebrating the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology

Switzerland is continuing to celebrate the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology with a series of events.

Most of the public events organised by CERN this year will focus on quantum mechanics. On 19 June 2025, the new CERN Science Gateway hosted the 2025 edition of **Sparks!**, titled **Imaging Quantum City**. This event took attendees on a futuristic journey to a hypothetical 'Quantum City', exploring how quantum mechanics could help to build more sustainable and inclusive societies. A video of the event is available [here](#).



Another interesting initiative has just started in Geneva. On 25 June 2025, the free exhibition **La quantique décodée** opened to the public. This exhibition is a project of the Geneva Quantum Centre at the University of Geneva, in partnership with Julien Bobroff and his team, 'La Physique Autrement' (University of Paris-Saclay, CNRS), and ID Quantique. It is open at the Museum of the History of Science until 20 August 2025.

Through a series of educational panels, visitors can explore the key concepts of quantum physics and learn about the cutting-edge research being conducted at the University of Geneva in areas such as quantum information, precision measurement, and new materials.

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## The Swiss Association Simply Science celebrates 15 years of activity

For 15 years, the **Simply Science Foundation** has been stimulating children's and young people's curiosity about science. To celebrate this milestone, the organisation has put together a competition combining science and arts and crafts for primary school classes, which is sure to delight pupils and their teachers alike. To make the celebrations even better, they have organised an Instagram competition for the public.

The competition starts on Tuesday, 12 August 2025, but the task is already available on the foundation's website. This gives teachers plenty of time to think about how to incorporate the competition into their lessons.

The winners will be announced in December 2025. You can find all the information about the competition and the prizes [here](#).

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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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