

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

The Swiss Physical Society wishes you a wonderful 2024!

WHAT'S UP IN SWITZERLAND?

Extraordinary General Assembly of the Swiss Physical Society

The Swiss Physical Society will hold an **Extraordinary General Assembly on 26 February 2024 at 08:30**. It will take place online via the Zoom platform. All members have received the SPS Mitteilungen in the last few days and can find the agenda and further information on page 4.



The Jost Bürgi Future Forum

[The Jost Bürgi Future Forum](#) will take place on Saturday, March 2 in Lichtensteig (SG). The topic is 'From Bürgi's small data to modern big data applications'. Details of this exciting program can be found in the attached flyer and on the dedicated [website](#).



Physics day at UNIGE

On 12 January 2024, the Physics Section of the **University of Geneva** organised an exciting one-day meeting, the **Physics Day**, aimed at involving all the members of the Section and to promote interactions and exchanges between them. The event was a great opportunity for young researchers, who were given a platform to present their projects and to foster accessible and engaging discussions for all participants. The event was successful and certainly worth



repeating in the future. All the presentations are available on the [website](#) of the event.

CERN celebrates its 70th anniversary

2024 marks an important milestone



for **CERN**, the European Organisation for Nuclear Research, as the laboratory [celebrates its 70th anniversary](#). Founded in 1954, the laboratory is now a hub of scientific knowledge, technical innovation, and international collaborations in the field of particle physics. Throughout the year, the anniversary will be celebrated with a [full programme of events and activities](#) showcasing the Laboratory's rich past and exciting future. The first event, "[Unveiling the Universe](#)", took place on 30 January and brought together science, art and culture in the history of CERN.

Ambrogio Fasoli appointed Programme Manager of EUROfusion

Professor Ambrogio Fasoli, director of the Swiss Plasma Center at EPFL is starting the year 2024 as the new **Programme Manager, i.e. CEO, of EUROfusion**, the consortium of all European laboratories (including the Swiss one) active in fusion science and technology. His appointment follows a rigorous selection process that attests to Professor Fasoli's notable qualifications and extensive scientific and managerial experience in the field (see also the [original news from EUROfusion](#) and [EPFL](#)).



Professor Fasoli is currently serving as Director of the Swiss Plasma Center. Until the end of January 2024, he was Associate Vice-President for Research at EPFL.

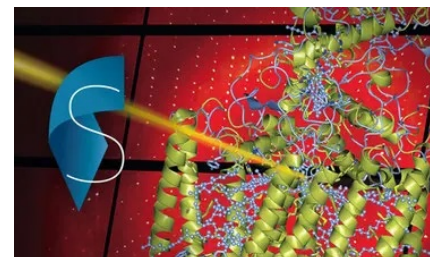
As CEO, Professor Fasoli will take charge of the EUROfusion Programme Management Unit (PMU). Before becoming CEO, as Chair of the EUROfusion General Assembly, its strategic body, he played the main role in the definition of the strategy of EUROfusion and is now responsible for its implementation. His comprehensive understanding and vast experience in fusion energy research position him aptly to drive [innovation, collaboration and integration](#) in his new role.

Professor Fasoli's appointment comes at a crucial time for fusion energy research. His leadership is expected to effectively address the current challenges facing the European fusion energy research community and to steer the programme towards new scientific breakthroughs.

Photo: portrait of Prof. Ambrogio Fasoli (from EPFL).

New MOOC on synchrotrons and XFEL radiation published by EPFL

A new MOOC on synchrotron and XFEL radiation will be published online on February 1, 2024. This course provides an extensive introduction to synchrotron and XFEL facilities and associated techniques and applications, ranging from x-ray techniques used at synchrotron to XFEL facilities across the broad categories of scattering, spectroscopy, and imaging. This six-week long MOOC is hosted by EPFL and it is presented by **Prof. Philip Willmott**.



A description of the course contents can be found [here](#). The language is English. Enrollment is free; the optional verified-certificate track costs \$169. This is a sister course to [another MOOC](#) published in 2022, which might further be of interest, in which the basic interactions of x-rays with matter, synchrotron- and XFEL-machine physics, and beamlines and instrumentation are covered.

An interdisciplinary group of Swiss scientists got computation time at the LUMI supercomputer in Finland

An interdisciplinary group of Swiss scientists led by [Prof. Florina Ciorba](#), [Rubén Cabezón](#), both of the University of Basel, and [Prof. Lucio Mayer](#), University of Zurich, will use the [largest ever allocation of node-hours](#) on the [European supercomputer LUMI-G](#), 5.5 million node-hours (equivalent to 22 million GPU-hours), to perform a simulation investigating the role of turbulence and gravity in the universe.



The researchers, who are part of the Swiss connection of the [Square Kilometer Array Observatory \(SKAO\)](#), have developed a hydrodynamics code called SPH-EXA, which simulates on supercomputers the behaviour of fluids and plasmas in the context of the formation of prestellar cores with unprecedented resolution. A simulation never before attempted on this scale.

Read more about this exciting project [here](#).

Photo: Florina Ciorba, Professor at the University of Basel, Lucio Mayer, Professor at the University of Zurich, and Rubén Cabezón, Senior Scientist at the computing center (sciCORE) of the University of Basel. Image from CSCS.

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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