

ACCU report - CHIPP plenary meeting (24th August 2026)

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This report covers the following ACCU meetings:

- 150th ACCU meeting, November 25, 2025: <https://indico.cern.ch/event/1605467/>
- 151st ACCU meeting, March 10, 2026: <https://indico.cern.ch/event/1645620/>
- 152nd ACCU meeting, June 9, 2026: <https://indico.cern.ch/event/1685774/>

1. General news from CERN

1.1 Accelerator Complex Performance

The accelerator complex operated exceptionally well in 2026. Availability of both the injectors and the LHC ranked among the best achieved in recent years, and all major physics programmes received beam according to schedule.

- Startup in 2026 was highly compressed, with only ~11 weeks between first stable beam (declared on March 7) and stable collisions, and about seven operation days lost to a collimator and compressor exchange.
- Luminosity goals were exceeded for all four major experiments. Run 3 cumulative integrated luminosity now exceeds 0.5 ab^{-1} , ~2.5 times the total delivered during Run 2, with about half of that total delivered in the last two years. A low-pile-up run for high-precision Standard Model physics and a special 1.2 TeV run for LHCb antiproton production studies were also completed successfully.
- The heavy-ion (Pb-Pb) programme achieved record ion beam intensities and a new stored-beam-energy record of 28 MJ. Van der Meer calibration scans have been completed for all four experiments.

1.2 End of the LHC and start of LS3

The LHC physics programme finally came to an end on 29 June 2026, with physics collisions stopped by mid-June and followed by a two-week period of circulating beams for high-intensity tests (probe of equipment behaviour and dedicated quench tests on all dipole and quadrupole magnets).

The LHC and its four major experiments will then be paused for four years in which major upgrades to the accelerator and the detectors will be performed during LS3. Other renovation projects during LS3 include the consolidation of the SPS North Area, the dismantling of the CERN Neutrinos to Gran Sasso (CNGS) target area, the transformation of the Experimental Cavern North 3 (ECN3) into a high-intensity fixed-target facility and the renovation of the ISOLDE facility.

The High-Luminosity LHC (HL-LHC) will start full operations in 2030, with a target of increasing the collider's luminosity by a factor of 7.5 to 10 from its original design value. The construction of the HL-LHC and the detector upgrades are the largest projects undertaken at CERN in around 20 years, and represent the highest priority for CERN at the moment.

1.3 Future Colliders and Strategy

The FCC-ee received strong endorsement in the European Strategy Group's report, with a descoped/staged option preferred; it remains CERN's second scientific priority after the HL-LHC, with the objective of bringing FCC-ee to Council in 2028. The public debate on the FCC project began in Switzerland and France in May and June respectively.

The non-collider physics programme remains a priority, with a long-term (20-year, 2027-2046) roadmap under development. The roadmap covers existing facilities (ISOLDE, AD/ELENA, n-TOF, SPS fixed-target and neutrino programmes, LHC fixed-target and neutrino platforms) as well as numerous proposed initiatives under study (SHiP, MUonE, ANUBIS, MATHUSLA, Gamma Factory, etc.), and will follow a phased process combining top-down strategic direction with bottom-up community input through scientific and technical committees.

1.4 International Relations and Community

CERN's membership continued to expand, with Slovenia becoming a Member State, and with Ireland and Chile becoming Associate Member States. Indonesia and Oman have signed International Cooperation Agreements with CERN.

1.5 Miscellaneous

- Since January 2026, CERN has a new management structure, led by Mark Thomson as DG. New management roles were introduced, including a new *Chief Information Officer*, a new *Site Operation Sector* (in charge of health, safety, environment, SCE, civil engineering) and a new [Organisational Support and Improvement](#) (OSI) department for transversal support, kind of CERN's "efficiency and modernisation" team aiming to make the organisation run better based on well-established corporate practices. Anyone at CERN can submit an idea for improvement via [CERNidée](#) or email, to eventually be tested by OSI through small pilot projects.
- A [historical retrospective on ACCU's origins](#) was presented by Patrick Koppenburg, tracing its three phases since 1954 and noting that the 50th anniversary of the committee in its current form should be celebrated around February 2028.

2. News from SCE (Site and Civil Engineering)

2.1 Housing

Occupancy stood at 77% for 2025, very close to the prior year's. A five-year roadmap for the housing service was endorsed by management, focusing on guest satisfaction, occupancy, revenue and sustainability.

A new fitness room opened (from 7am to 10pm) at the hotel, and check-in procedures were revised following reported difficulties during night hours. Booking flexibility was extended, allowing reservations up to six months in advance and access for eligible external staff.

2.2 Catering

Meal volumes remained stable across the year. A price increase was applied for 2026 on the French side, in line with contractual provisions, while no increase was foreseen for the Swiss side.

The catering offer is available on the [CERN campus app](#). New offerings at R1 included rotating international cuisine weeks (Thai, Sri Lankan, Turkish, and Ethiopian cuisine), a self-service pasta/quiche/pizza corner (since November 2025), and a British products corner. Allergy and intolerance information was integrated into catering order forms, and the appointment of designated allergen guides in each restaurant was introduced to support food safety. R1 opening hours have been extended from 10pm to 11pm three days per week (Wednesday to Friday).

A Click & Delivery pilot for delivering meals from R3 to LHC experimental points achieved limited uptake and is being reassessed. Vending machine refund processing was shortened from 24 to 3 days, and cash payment at machines is being phased out in favour of a reusable-cup discount scheme.

Summer student discounts are offered between June 15 and September 15 for both lunch and dinner for CERN student card holders (with a contract of at least 30 days). "Suspended coffee" concept (*buy one coffee and pay for one coffee to be offered to a student*) was implemented in all Novae cafeterias (same period and conditions as for the Summer Student discount).

The *Minimarket* project (aimed at providing 24/7 access to essential goods and prepared meals through low-cost automated retail), is undergoing a feasibility study (discussions with retailer already in progress) ahead of a decision on implementation.

2.3 Mobility

A new dedicated shuttle service for users has been introduced for LS3, running from 1st June between B300 (Meyrin), the Schuman transfer point, the Prévessin site and Point 5/CMS, with seven daily round trips on weekdays.

The e-bike fleet was expanded (up to 125) and made permanent on several routes, and new bike shelters and charging infrastructure were rolled out.

A long-term secure bike parking option is now available at Building 354 in Meyrin for staff and users absent for extended periods, bookable through the CERN Service Portal.

2.4 Cleaning, waste and recovery

A first phase of robotic cleaning deployment began in May 2026, with four autonomous robots operating across fourteen buildings using LiDAR navigation, automatic charging and remote supervision, mainly outside occupancy hours. A next phase under study would connect the robots to building systems such as elevators to enable multi-floor autonomy.

2.5 Site Development

On-site construction continued across multiple projects, including the Prévessin heating plant, renovation of the water tower (installation of new lift and internal staircase), lighting consolidation in several buildings, renovation of B100 and B133, early works on B140, progress on the [new B777](#) office and laboratory facility, extension of the ISOLDE complex (including an underground B738), and preparatory works for a new cleanroom facility (SA18) at Point 18. Works affecting access points were also reported, including entrance modifications at Gate B and Gate A. New works about to start include the B41 retention basin and new 400kV protection firewalls in B861.

Outside the CERN site, planned or ongoing works include the district heating network, redevelopment of Gate B and the Prévessin entrance, extensions to the regional bus network, and roadworks near the Porte-de-France and CMS entrances, with several projects requiring temporary access restrictions.

2.6 Stores and Supply chain

Users are reminded to anticipate needs for self-rescue masks amid limited stock following the discontinuation of certain models (Fenzy Oxypro and MSA Savox masks); new masks require accompanying safety training. A new e-learning course on customs and VAT procedures was introduced to support compliant international shipping, particularly relevant given recent changes in trade policy.

3. News from IT

3.1 Infrastructure and Services

- New services deployed
 - [resource portal](#), implementing official policies for resource eligibility and lifecycle.
 - [Group Management System](#), replacing e-groups.
 - [EduVPN](#) service, complementary to the terminal server (RDP) and Ixplus/Ixtunnel (SSH), is already available. EduVPN provides secure access to CERN resources while routing only CERN-related traffic through the VPN (all non-CERN data traffic still goes via the default internet provider connection).
- The WordPress service replacing Drupal now hosts over 300 sites. The Drupal service is scheduled for decommissioning at the end of September 2026, then after a migration of non-customised sites will to automatically performed to WordPress.
- WebDFS is being phased out alongside outdated frameworks and Windows Server 2016, ahead of a January 2027 cutoff. Migration to alternatives (WebEOS) is strongly recommended.
- Obsolete CERNBox sync clients for macOS and Linux were blocked at the end of March 2026, and EOS project space creation is being simplified, with existing projects migrated transparently in April 2026.
- Microsoft is retiring Project Online and Project Web Apps by September 2026, with alternatives under evaluation.
- Standalone Grafana is being migrated to MONIT Grafana, and self-service SSO/2FA adoption continues to expand.

3.2 AI and Code Assistant Tools

Following a survey on demand for AI coding assistants, IT approached various suppliers. The current situation, in terms of the two main families of AI tools (chat services and code assistants), is the following:

- AI-chat services
 - *Google Gemini*: offering AI chat + add-ons for Google docs and slides, it remains a pilot service for CERN Google workspace users.
 - *Microsoft Copilot Chat* is already available.
- AI-code assistants
 - GitLab Duo (GitLab AI Code Assistant) is expected to be opened to all CERN GitLab users during summer 2026 (in its base level, with limited monthly usage).
 - Under consideration (proof-of-concept expected soon): *Claude Code*, *Cursor*, *GitHub Copilot*.

3.3 Email and Communication

- CERN mail server protocol is evolving (IMAP → EWS → Graph API), and non-native clients must be ready before protocol removal. Thunderbird is actively implementing Graph API support, but, although progress is encouraging, no delivery date is yet announced.
- Older Exchange ActiveSync clients were blocked in March 2026, with users directed to update or switch to Outlook; Exchange Web Services will be deprecated from October 2026, affecting several third-party mail clients.

3.4 Other technical updates

- Windows terminal server now requires 2FA.
- Stricter Web Application Firewall rules are being rolled out progressively to webEOS sites in 2026.
- A new campus Wi-Fi solution (WPA Enterprise, under the "CERN-Campus" SSID) is being deployed, becoming recommended from spring 2026 and mandatory later in the year; device credentials are generated via LanDB and cannot be centrally recovered if lost.

4. LINKS OF INTEREST

- **ACCU** (Advisory Committee of CERN Users)
 - ACCU web-site: <https://accu.web.cern.ch/>
 - ACCU meetings in indico: <https://indico.cern.ch/category/1058/>
- **Users' Office**
 - Web site: <http://usersoffice.web.cern.ch/>
 - Forms: <https://usersoffice.web.cern.ch/forms-0>
- **CERN IT** (Information Technology)
 - Web site: <https://information-technology.web.cern.ch/>
 - News and updates: <https://computing-blog.web.cern.ch/>
 - Resource portal: <https://resources-portal.web.cern.ch/>
 - Group management system: <https://groups-portal.web.cern.ch/>
 - CERN Campus App: https://backend.pocketcampus.org/get_app.php?app=pccern
- **CERN SCE** (Site and Civil Engineering)
 - Web site: <https://sce-dep.web.cern.ch/>
 - Housing and hotel reservations: <https://sce-dep.web.cern.ch/campus-life/housing>
 - Catering: <https://sce-dep.web.cern.ch/campus-life/catering>
 - Mobility (car sharing, bikes, rentals, etc): <https://sce-dep.web.cern.ch/campus-life/mobility>
 - Security and access: <https://sce-dep.web.cern.ch/security/access>
 - Locks and keys: <https://sce-dep.web.cern.ch/security/locks-and-keys>
 - CERN maps: <https://maps.cern.ch/>
- **Learning and development**
 - Web site: [Lerning hub](#)
 - [E-platforms and apps](#)
- **Ukraine**
 - CERN HR support web page: <https://hr.web.cern.ch/Support-Ukraine>
 - CERN User office support web page: <https://usersoffice.web.cern.ch/support-those-affected-war-ukraine>
 - List of resources: [CERN-HR-Note-2022-008](#)
 - Mattermost channel: <https://mattermost.web.cern.ch/ukrainianscern/channels/town-square>

⚠ **NB:** if you'd like to have listed additional links or spot any broken link do not hesitate to get in touch, Sergio.Gonzalez@unige.ch.