



Swiss Centre of Competence  
for Deep Geothermal Energy  
for power and heat production



# **GEO THERMAL IN SWITZERLAND OVERVIEW ON ACTIVITIES IN: RESEARCH, INDUSTRY PROJECTS & THE NEW ENERGY LAW**

**UNECE – SPE SWISS JOINT LECTURE HELD IN OCCASION OF THE  
UNECE RESOURCE CLASSIFICATION WEEK 2017**

**PALAIS DE NATIONS, SALLE XXI, GENEVA, 26<sup>TH</sup> OF APRIL 2017**

**Dr. Peter Meier,  
CEO Geo-Energie Suisse and IGA, chair information committee  
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# Introduction

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- Status of geothermal energy in Switzerland
- Resources difficult to develop, therefore
  - ▣ Research
  - ▣ Pilot projects
  - ▣ Politics provide very interesting incentives

## Acknowledgements:

**Gunter Siddiqi from the Swiss federal office of energy and the Swiss Competence Center for Energy Research – Supply of Electricity provided many slides**

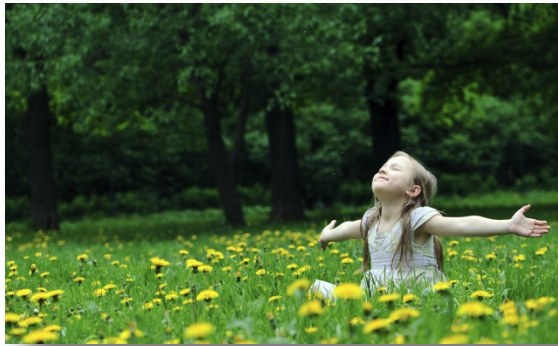
Only heat is generated from geothermal, but ambitious target is set for electricity

Electricity		Direct Use	
Total Installed Capacity (MW <sub>e</sub> )	0	Total Installed Capacity (MW <sub>th</sub> )	26.7
New Installed Capacity (MW <sub>e</sub> )	0	New Installed Capacity (MW <sub>th</sub> )	-3.9
Total Running Capacity (MW <sub>e</sub> )	0	Total Heat Used (PJ/yr) [GWh/yr]	0.78 (215.9)
Contribution to National Capacity (%)	0	Total Installed Capacity Heat Pumps (MW <sub>th</sub> )	1925.5
Total Generation (GWh)	0	Total Net Heat Pump Use [GWh/yr]	2320.2
Contribution to National Generation (%)	0	Target (PJ/yr)	N/A
Target 2050 (GWh/yr)	4'400	Estimated Country Potential (MW <sub>th</sub> or PJ/yr or GWh/yr)	N/A
Estimated Country Potential (GWh/yr)	N/A		

Katharina Link & Gunter Siddiqi, 2016 Switzerland Country Report, IEA Geothermal, March 2017

# Motivation

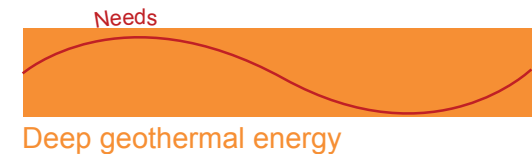
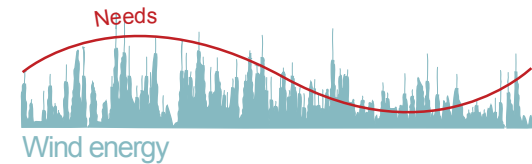
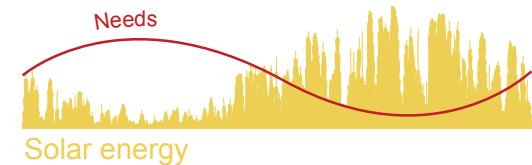
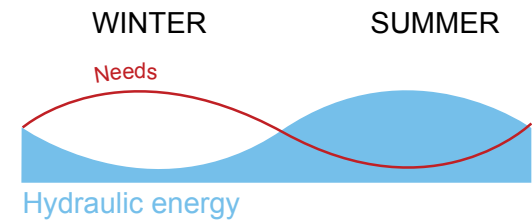
- Local and renewable
- Clean and CO<sub>2</sub>-free



- Low impact on the environment and the landscape



- Base-load energy – available 24/24



# Motivation

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Grünwald

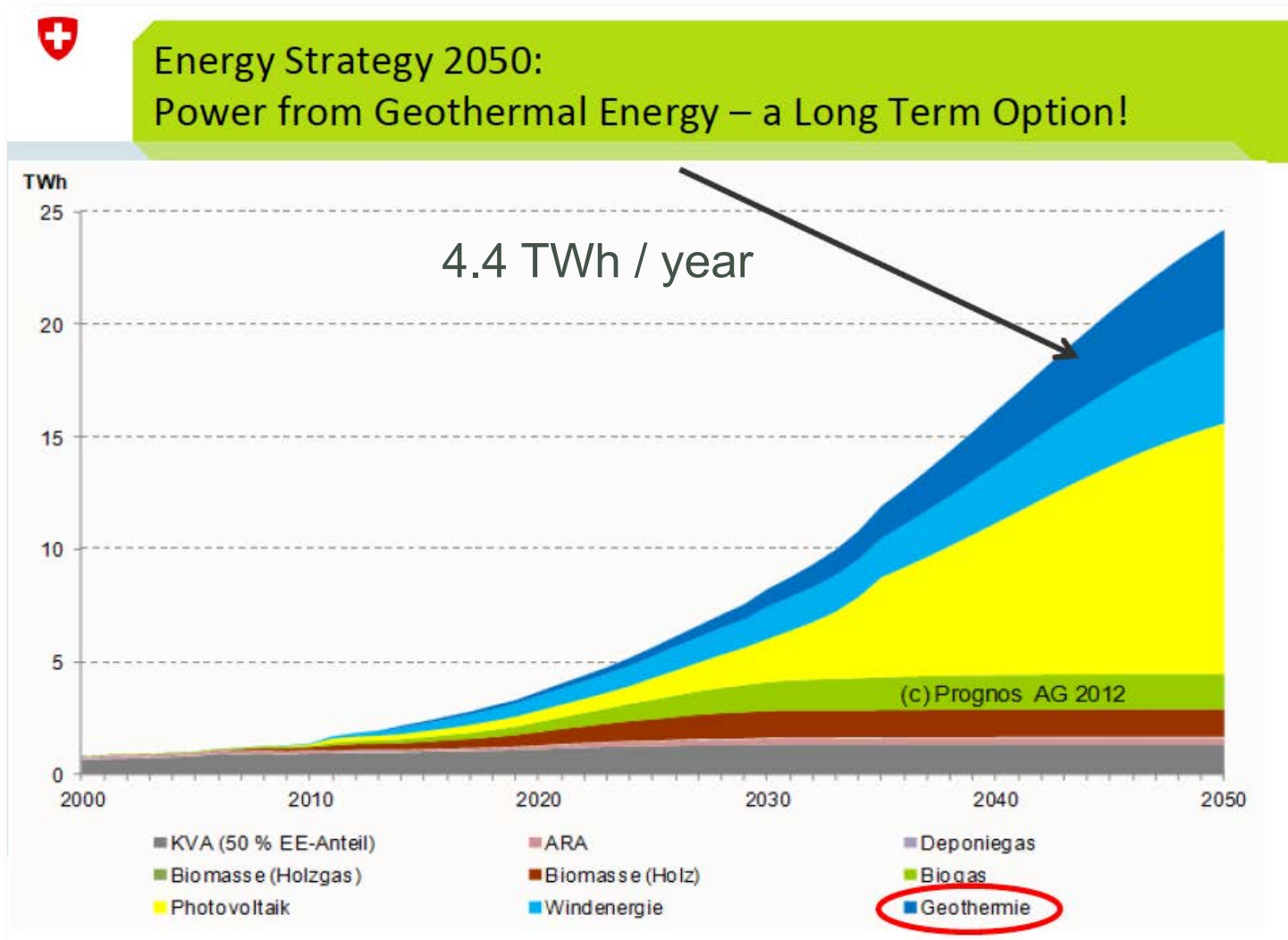
10 power plants produce electricity and heat with an installed electric power of 35 MW

Success story –  
Munich, Germany



Unterhaching

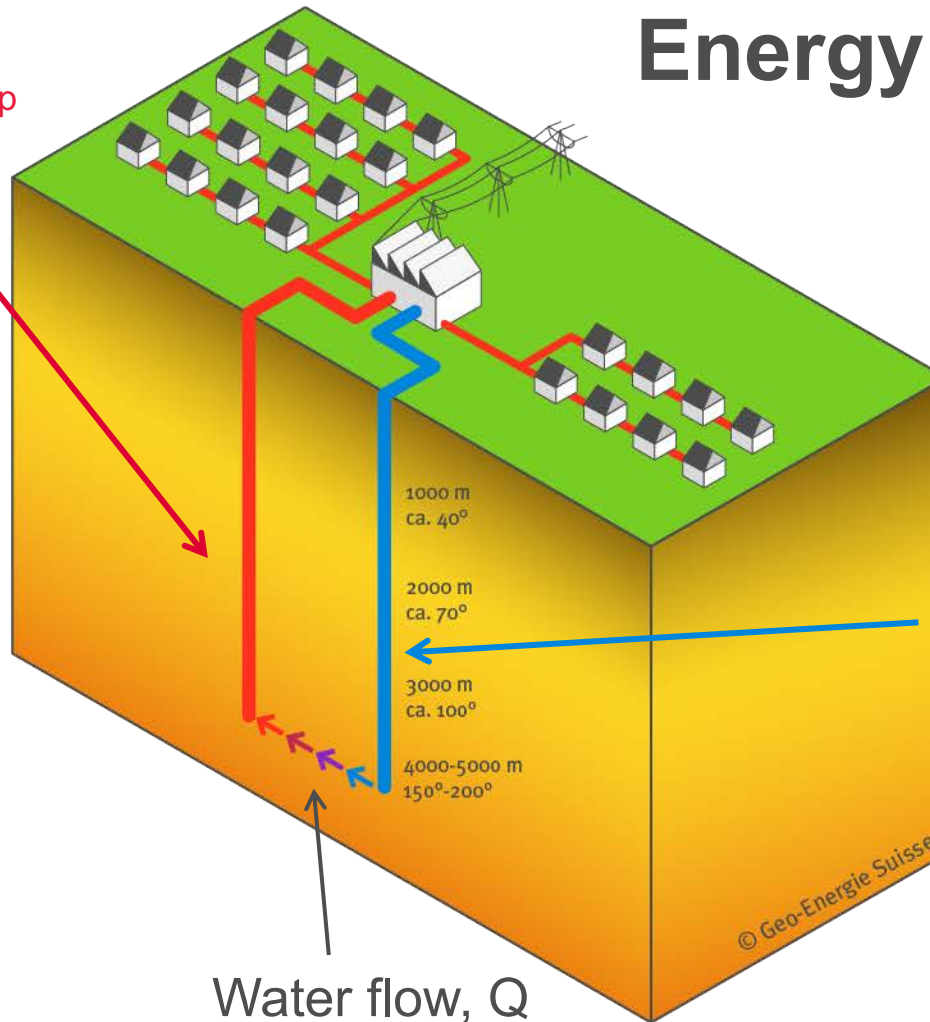
# Motivation



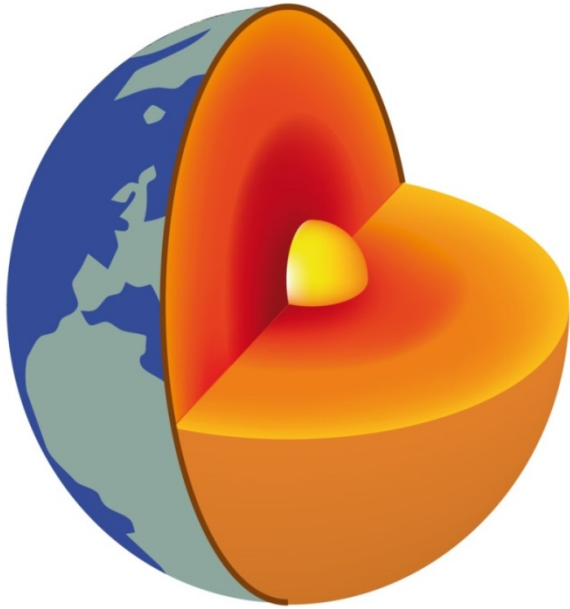
# The Geothermal Energy

Production  
Temperature,  $T_p$

$$\text{Energy} \approx Q^*(T_p - T_i)$$



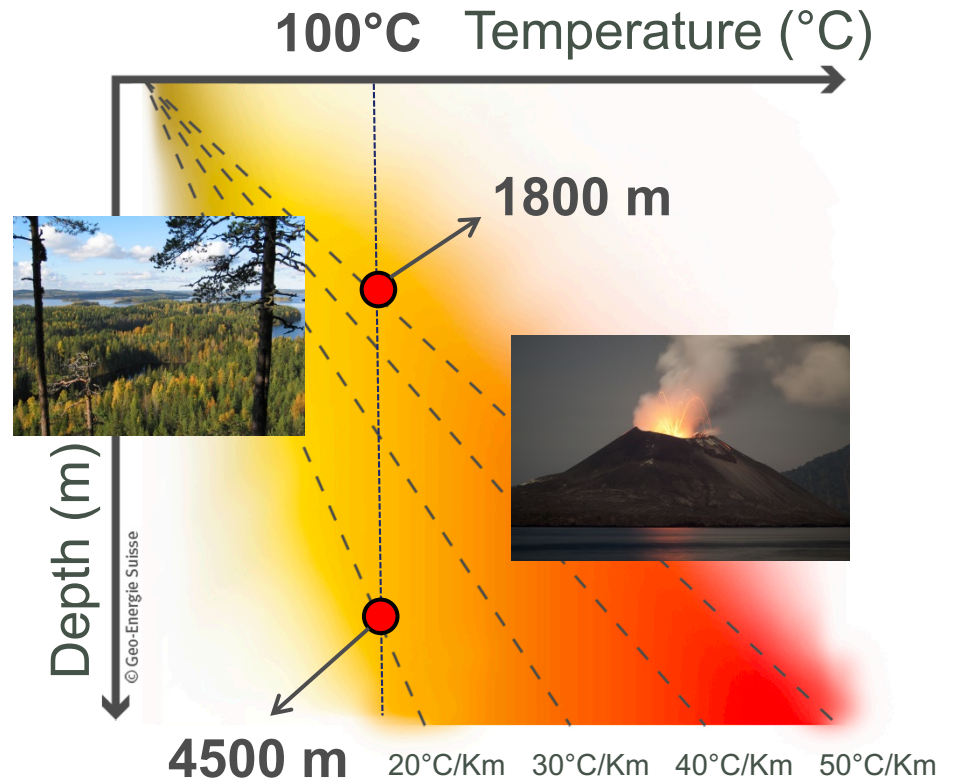
# The Heat



99%

of its volume is above 1000° C

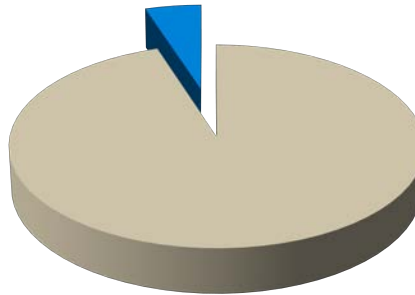
## The geothermal gradient





# The Water Flow

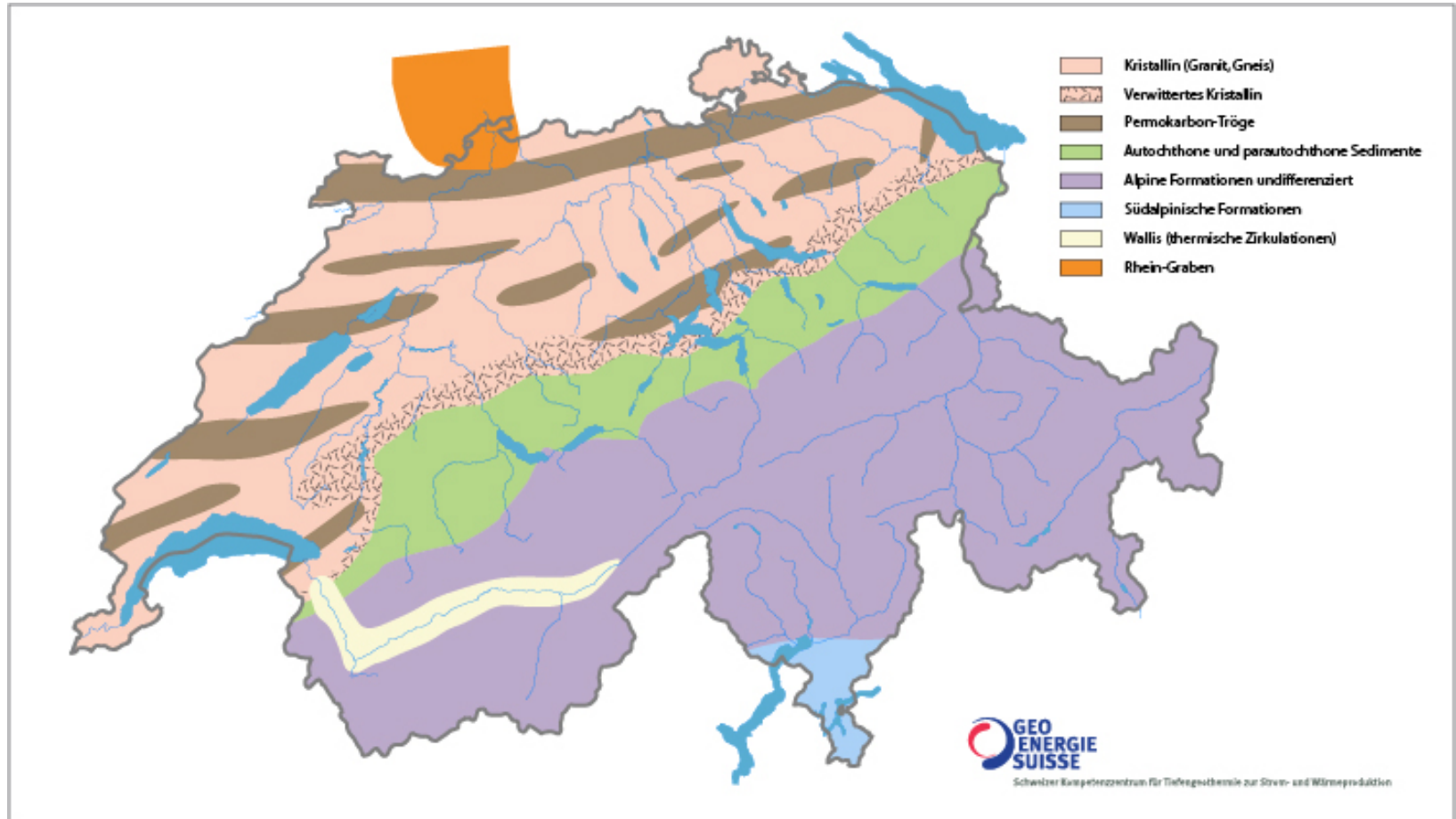
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## Message

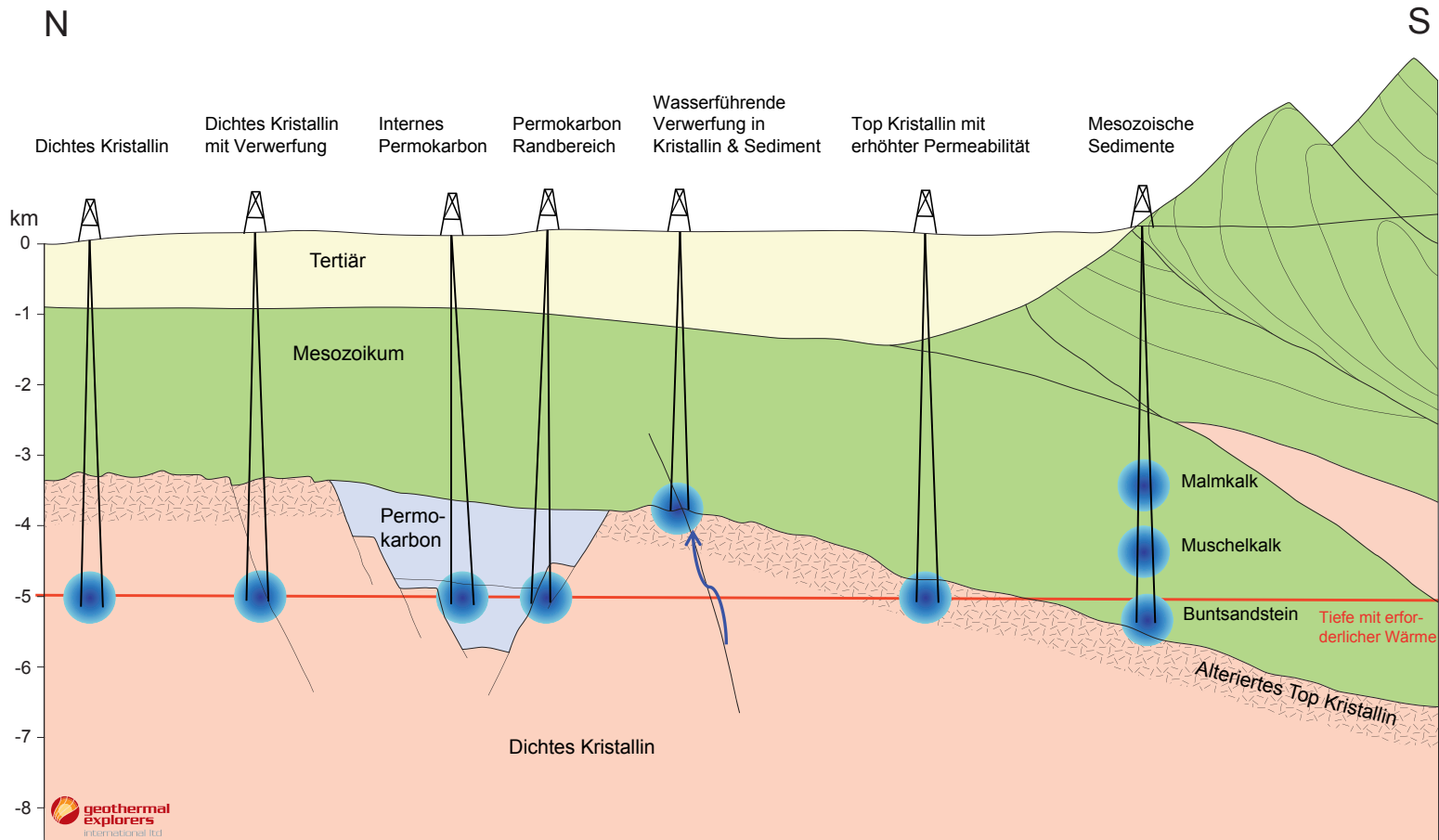
- Sufficient temperature will always be found. It is only a matter of depth (and costs)
- Large water flows at depth are rare. **Technology is therefore required to extract the heat in most cases**

# Schematic representation of geology



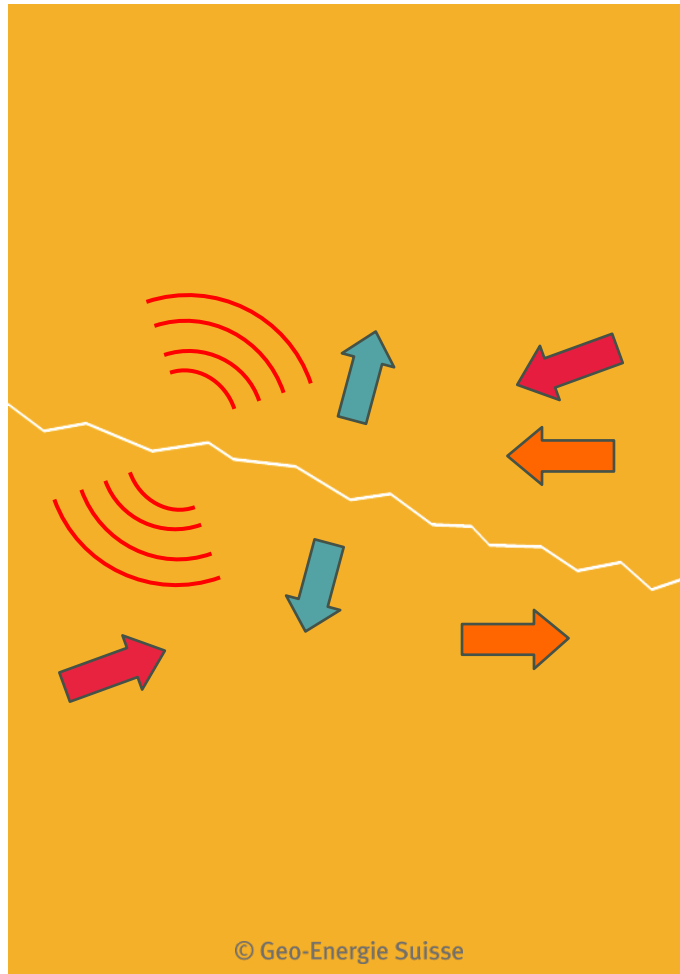
# Geothermal plays in Switzerland

Schematischer Schnitt durchs Mittelland



- ❑ Only few deep boreholes existing => more exploration needed
- ❑ Until now only low permeability rocks were found => R&D in EGS

# EGS – Principle of hydraulic stimulation



- Natural fissures represent weaknesses in the rock mass.
- Differential stresses permanently apply on them.
- The injection of water in a fissure reduces the friction preventing it from slipping.
- This causes a displacement along the fissure.
- Seismic energy is released, which allows the event to be located.
- The walls of the fissure don't match anymore. The permeability has been permanently enhanced.

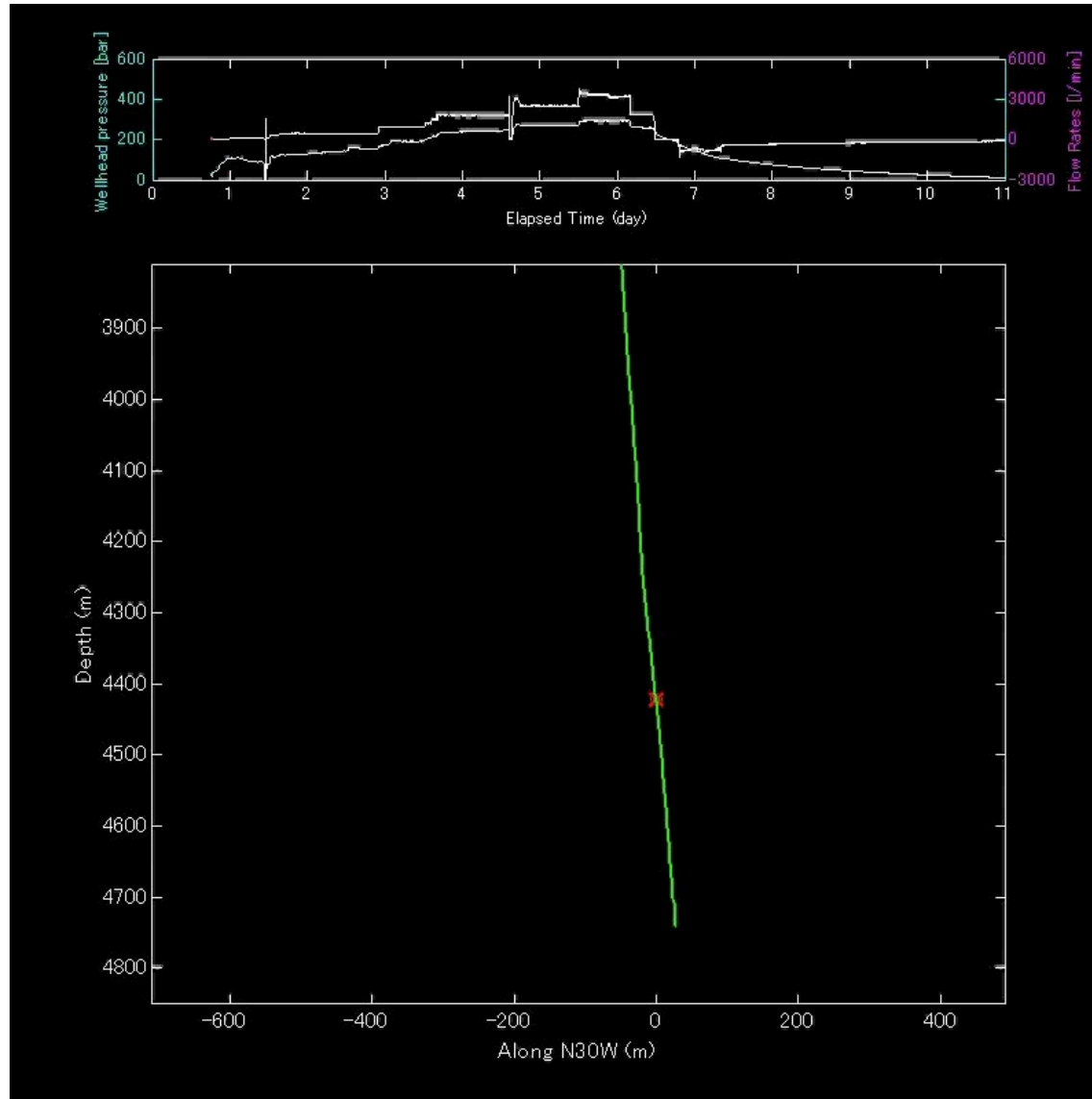
# Lessons of Basel as basis for a new concept.

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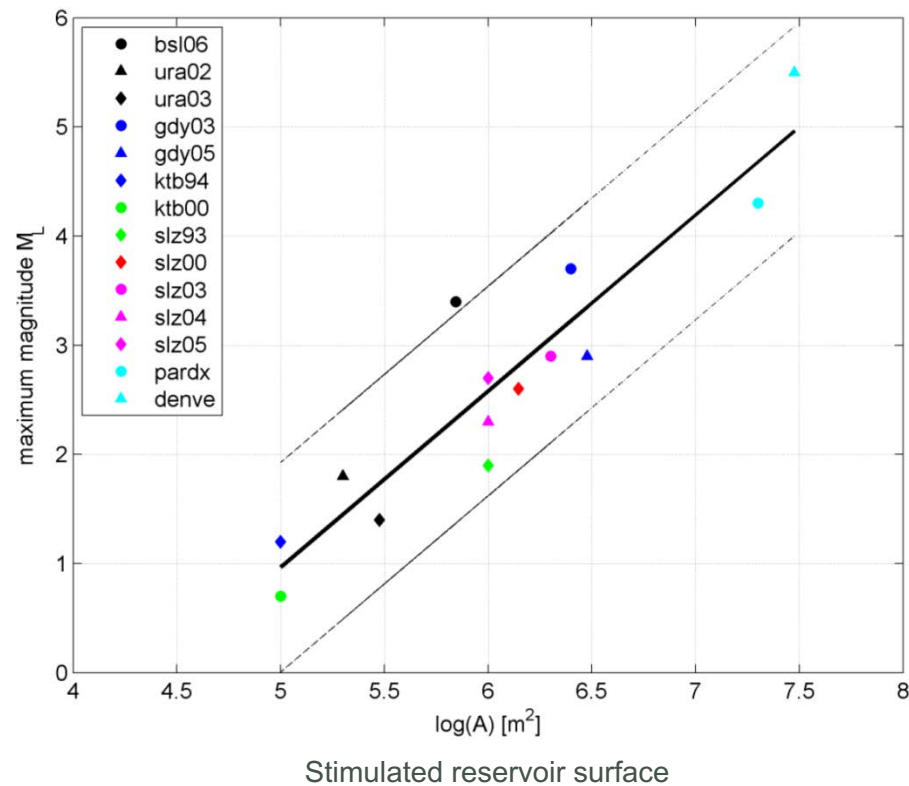
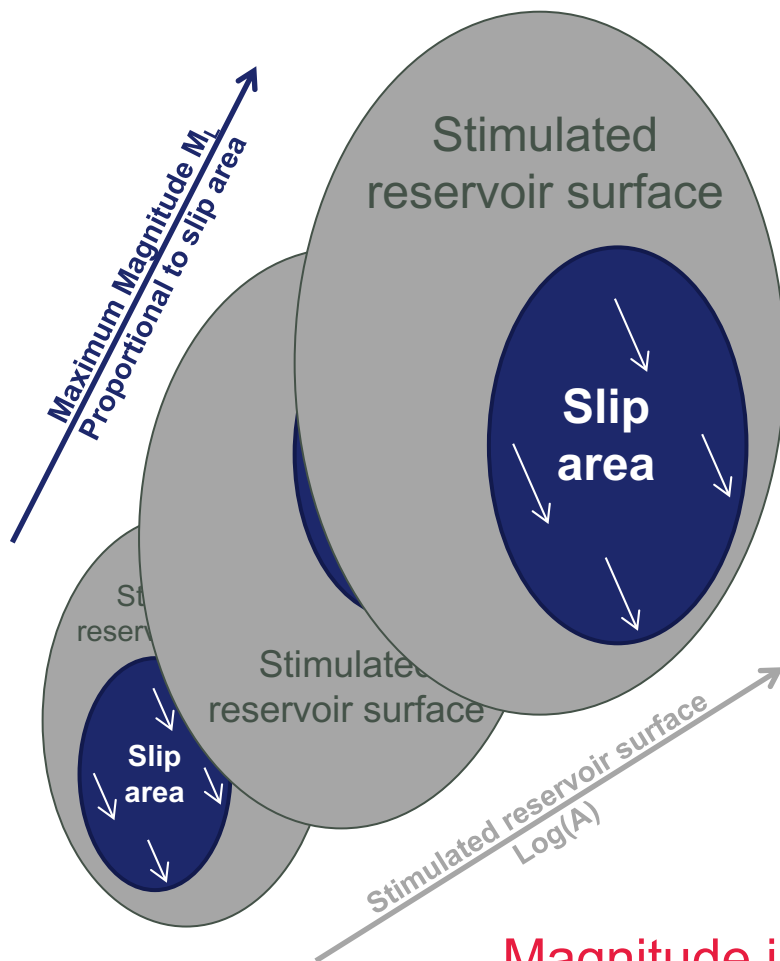


Deep Heat Mining Basel

# Seismic dataset from the Basel project during the massive stimulation in large open wellbore section

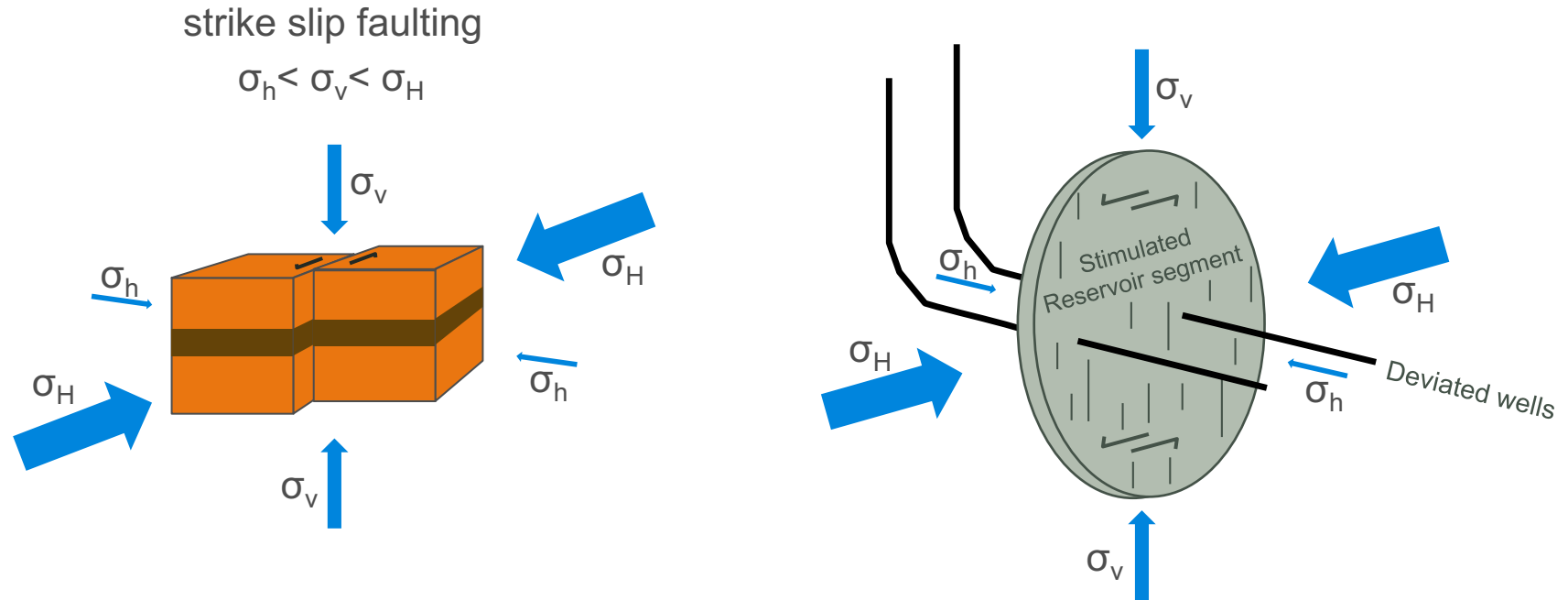


# Basel: Key findings on induced seismicity



Magnitude increases with stimulated reservoir area (Serianex, 2009)

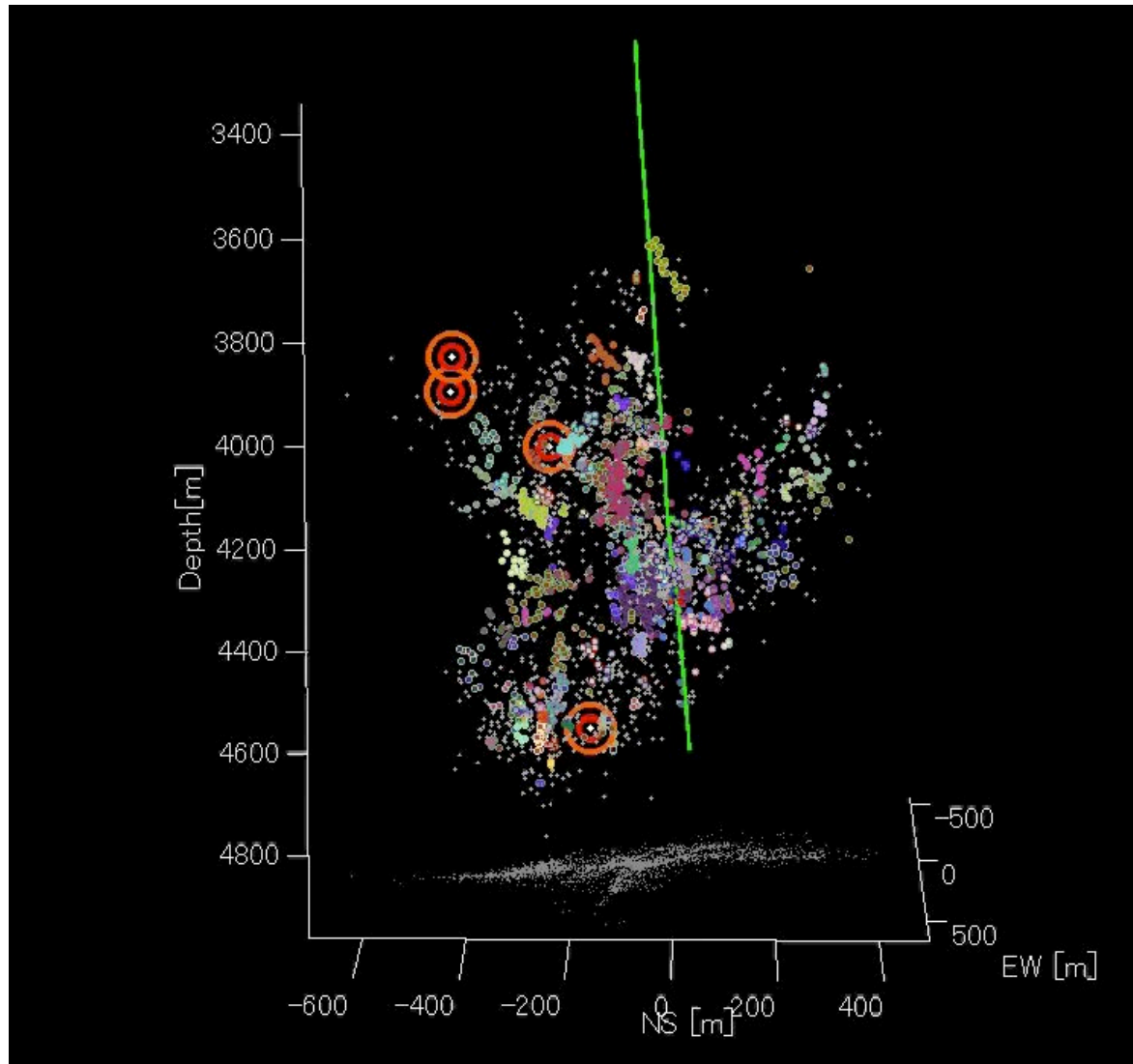
# EGS – Orientation of the stimulated reservoir



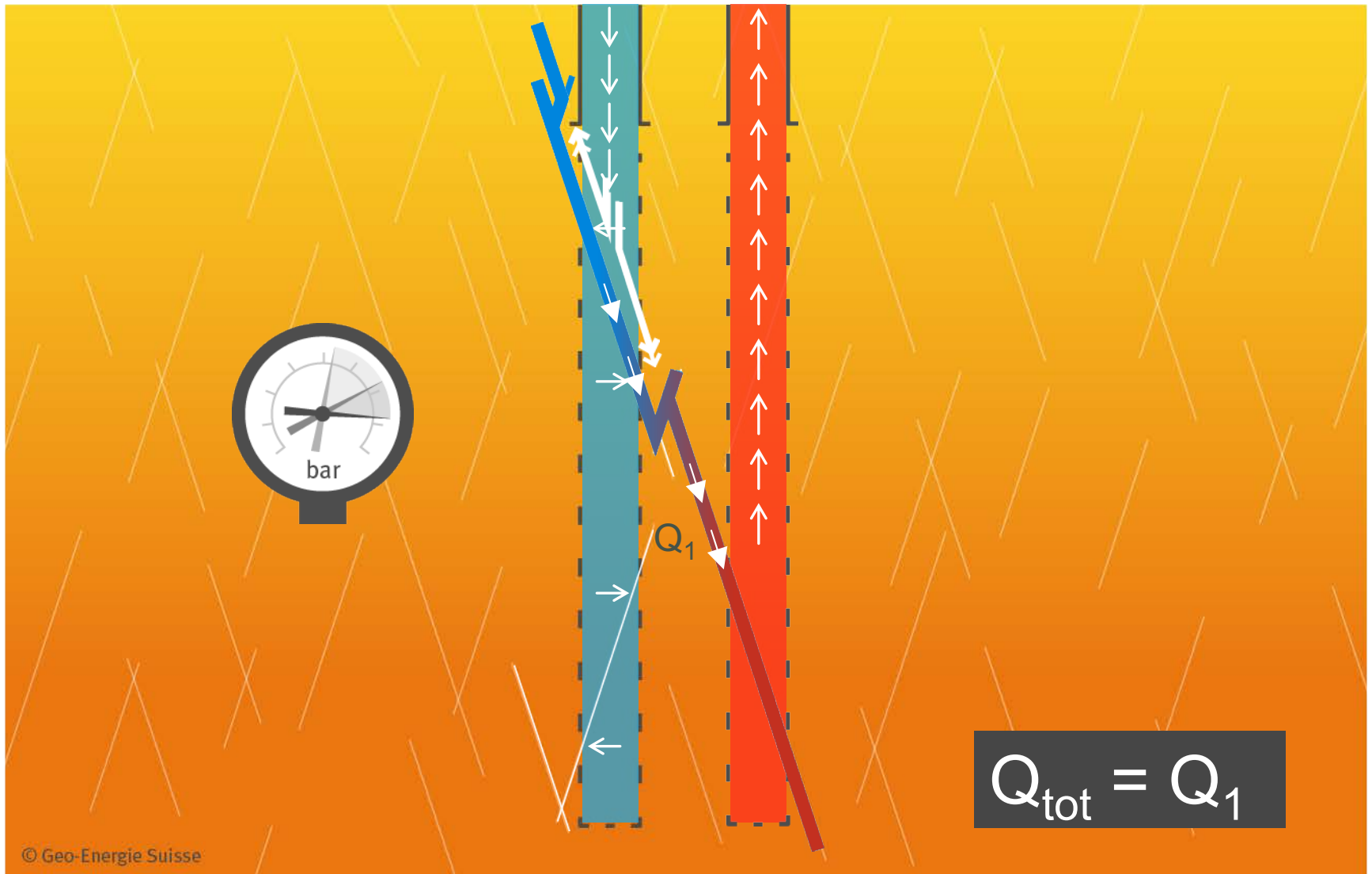
- In a strike-slip stress regime, a vertical disked-shaped reservoir develops during stimulation
- **→ In such stress regimes, the drilling of deviated wells is required**



# Seismic dataset showing the 3D geometry of the Basel reservoir after 3 months

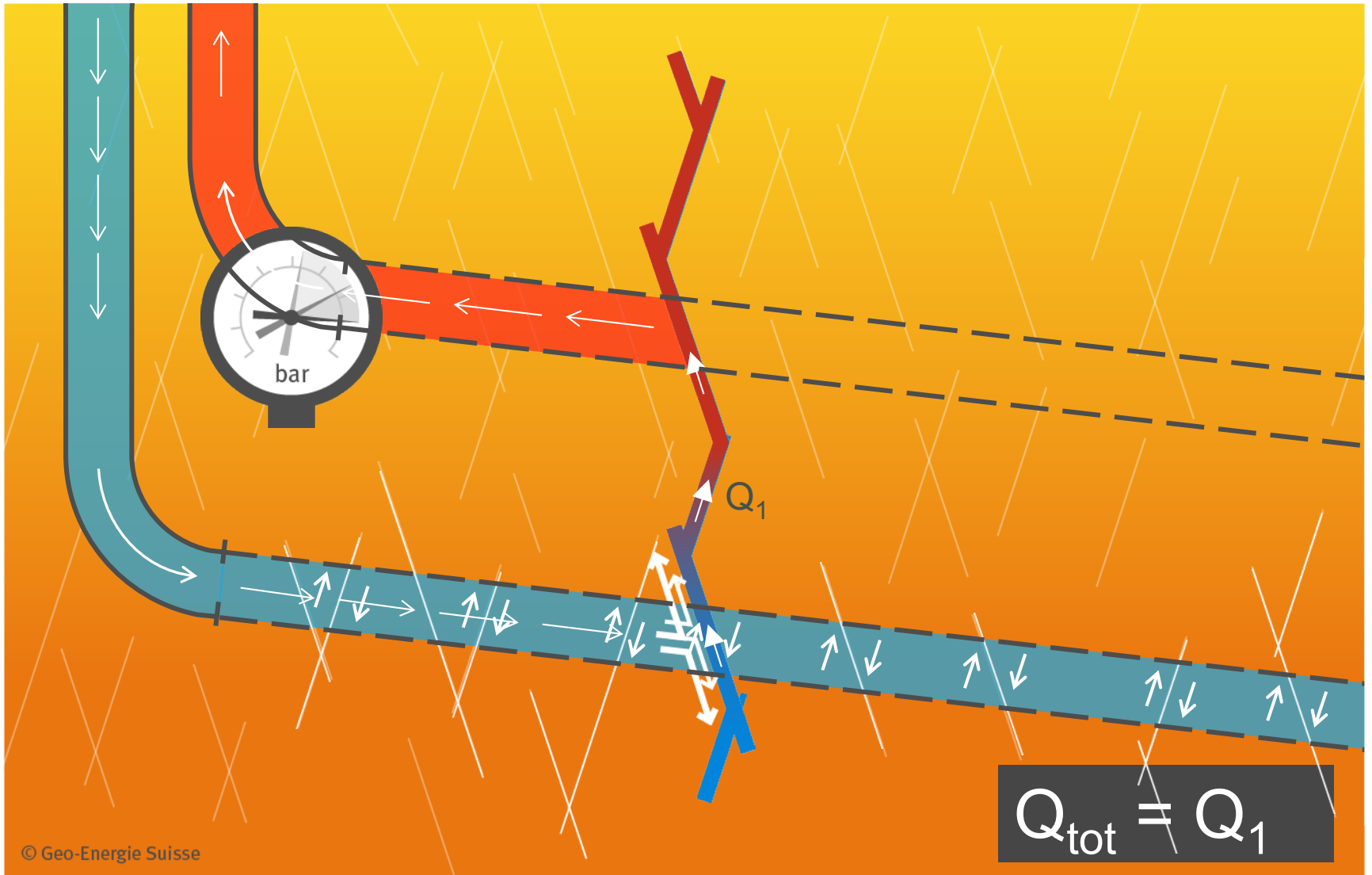


# Stimulation of an open-hole vertical well



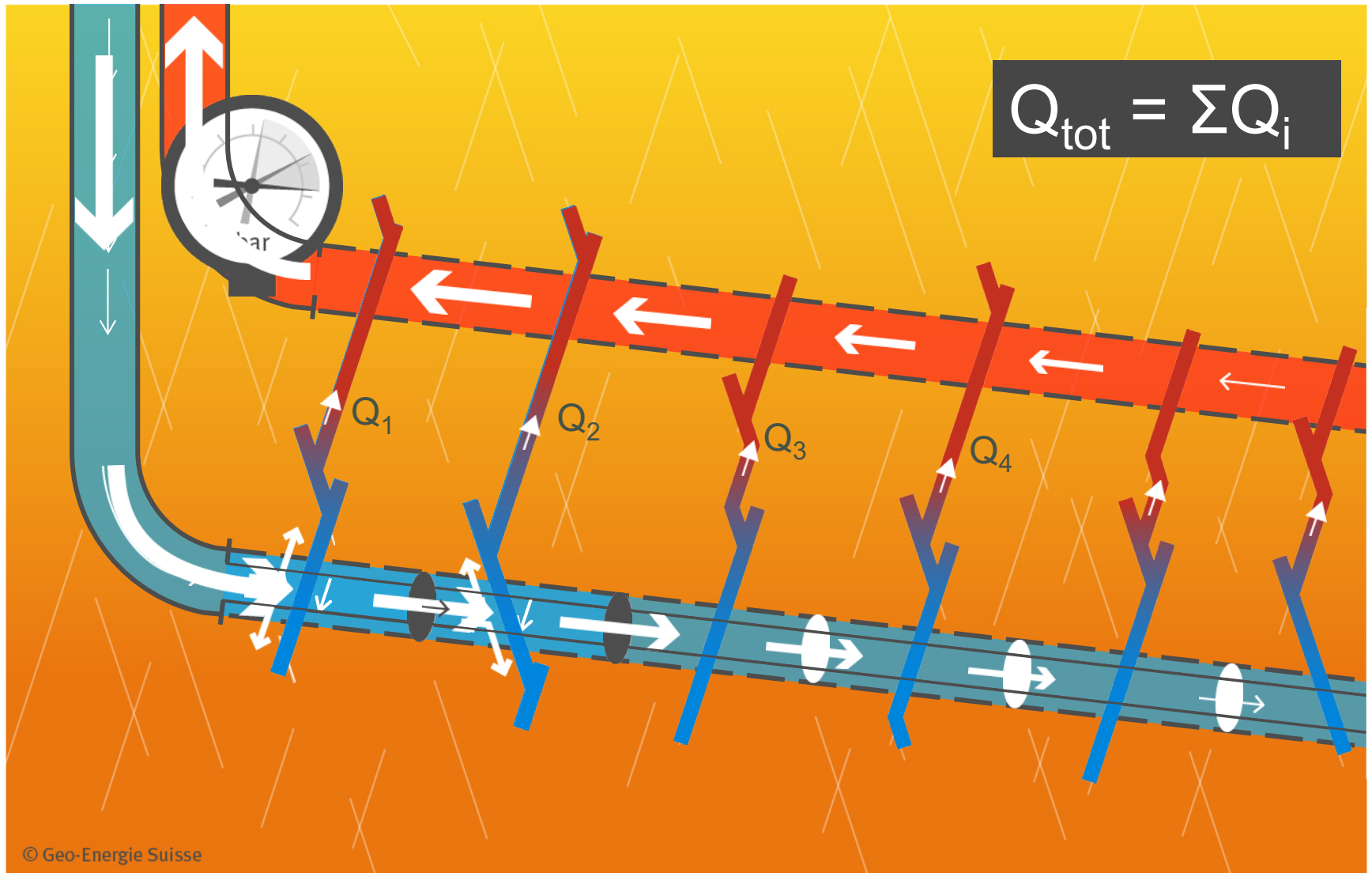
© Geo-Energie Suisse

# Stimulation of an open-hole deviated well



© Geo-Energie Suisse

# Multi-stage stimulation of isolated segments



© Geo-Energie Suisse

# Project DESTRESS / EU-Horizon 2020

## Multi-stage and cyclic stimulation



### Objectives

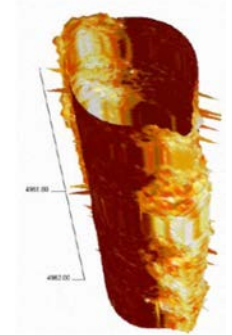
Demonstration of soft stimulation treatments of geothermal reservoirs.

### Project description

16 Partners from research and industry from 6 European countries and South Korea will demonstrate soft stimulation in existing or planned boreholes at up to 7 sites in sedimentary and crystalline rocks.

### Significance

Geo-Energie Suisse focuses on the development and testing of zonal isolation techniques and multi-stage shear stimulation treatments at the Haute-Sorne site.



### Budget

Total budget Euro 25 Mio., Geo-Energie Suisse CHF 5.6 Mio.

### Project duration

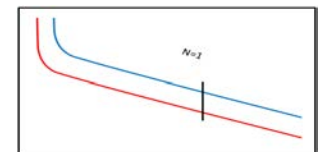
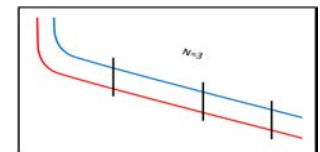
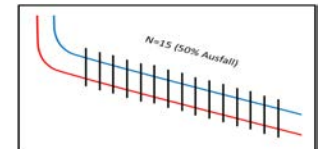
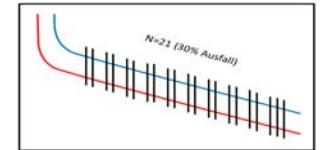
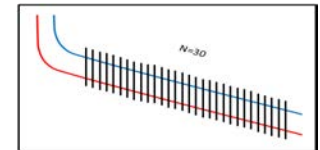
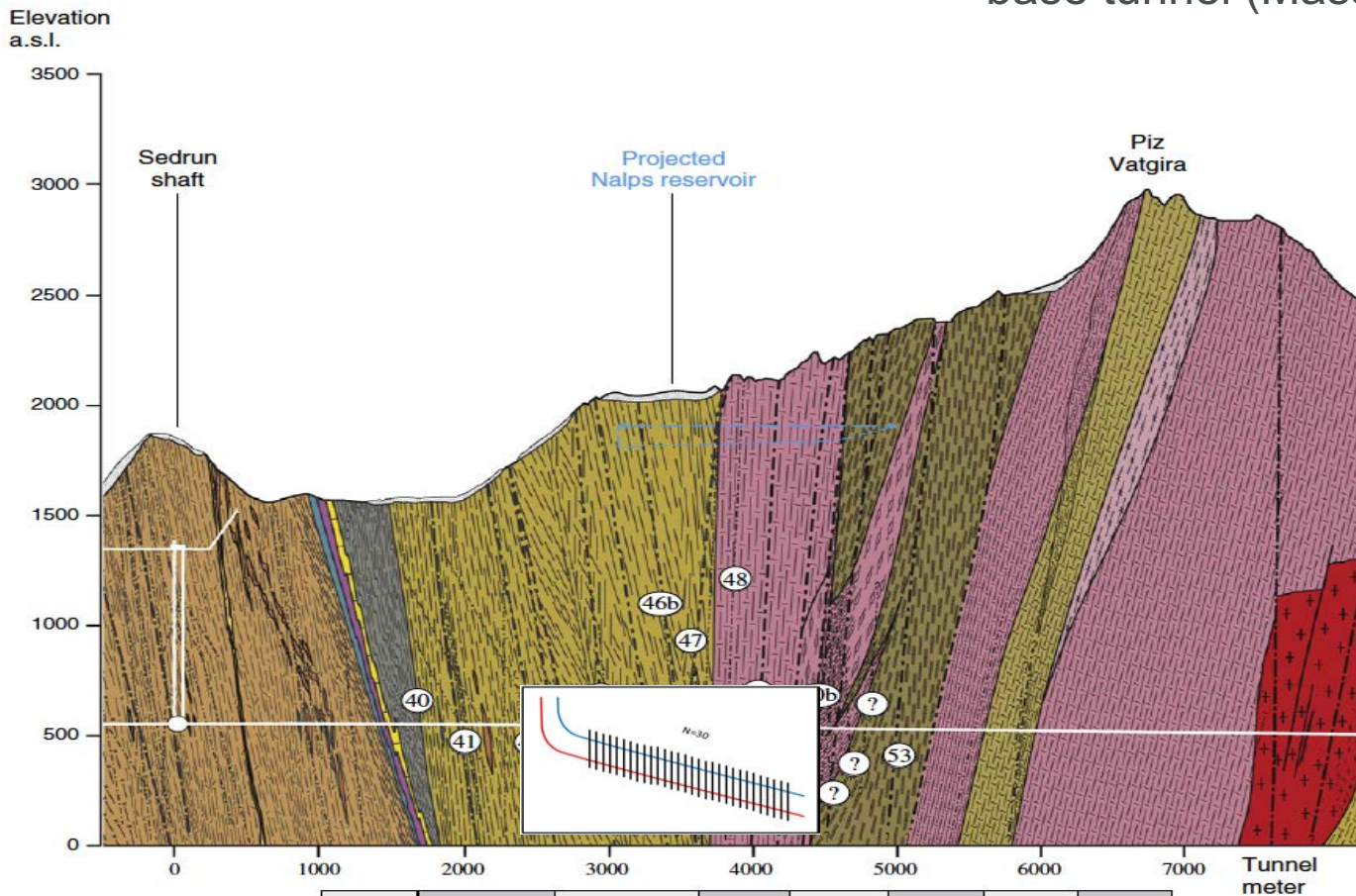
March 2016 – February 2020



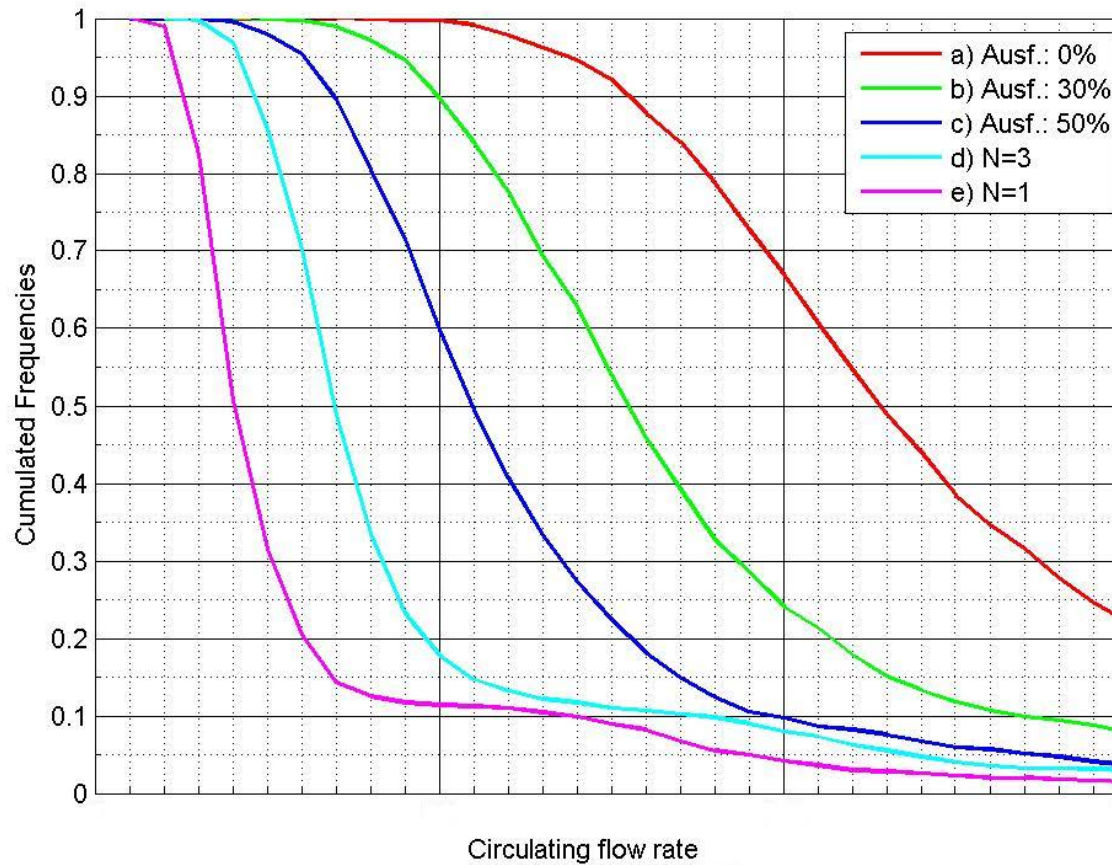
# MC simulations to show chances of success

O. Masset, S. Loew / *Engineering Geology* 164 (2013) 50–66

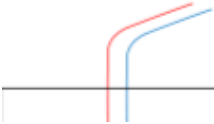
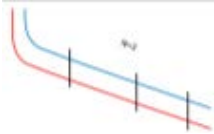
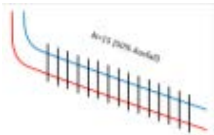
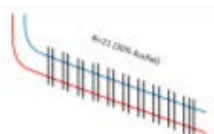
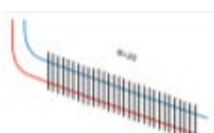
assuming rock conditions of the Gotthard base tunnel (Masset & Loew, 2013)



# MC simulations demonstrate the improvement of circulation rates using a multi-stage stimulation system instead of a stimulation in an open borehole



# What are the economics?

Utilisation System	Increase Factor of:	
	El. Power	Costs
 <p><b>Vertical Single-Open-Hole-System</b>, 1 fracture</p>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
 <p>Single-Open-Hole-System, 3 fractures</p>	1.8	1.2
 <p>Multi-Stage-System; 50% failure rate of stages</p>	2.9	1.6
 <p>Multi-Stage-System; 30% failure rate of stages</p>	4.2	1.6
 <p><b>Multi-Stage-System</b>; 0% failure rate of stages</p>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>1.6</b>



# **Advantages of the multi-stage EGS concept compared to massive open-hole stimulation**

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**Multi-stage stimulation**



**High total reservoir permeability**



**High water flow through the reservoir**



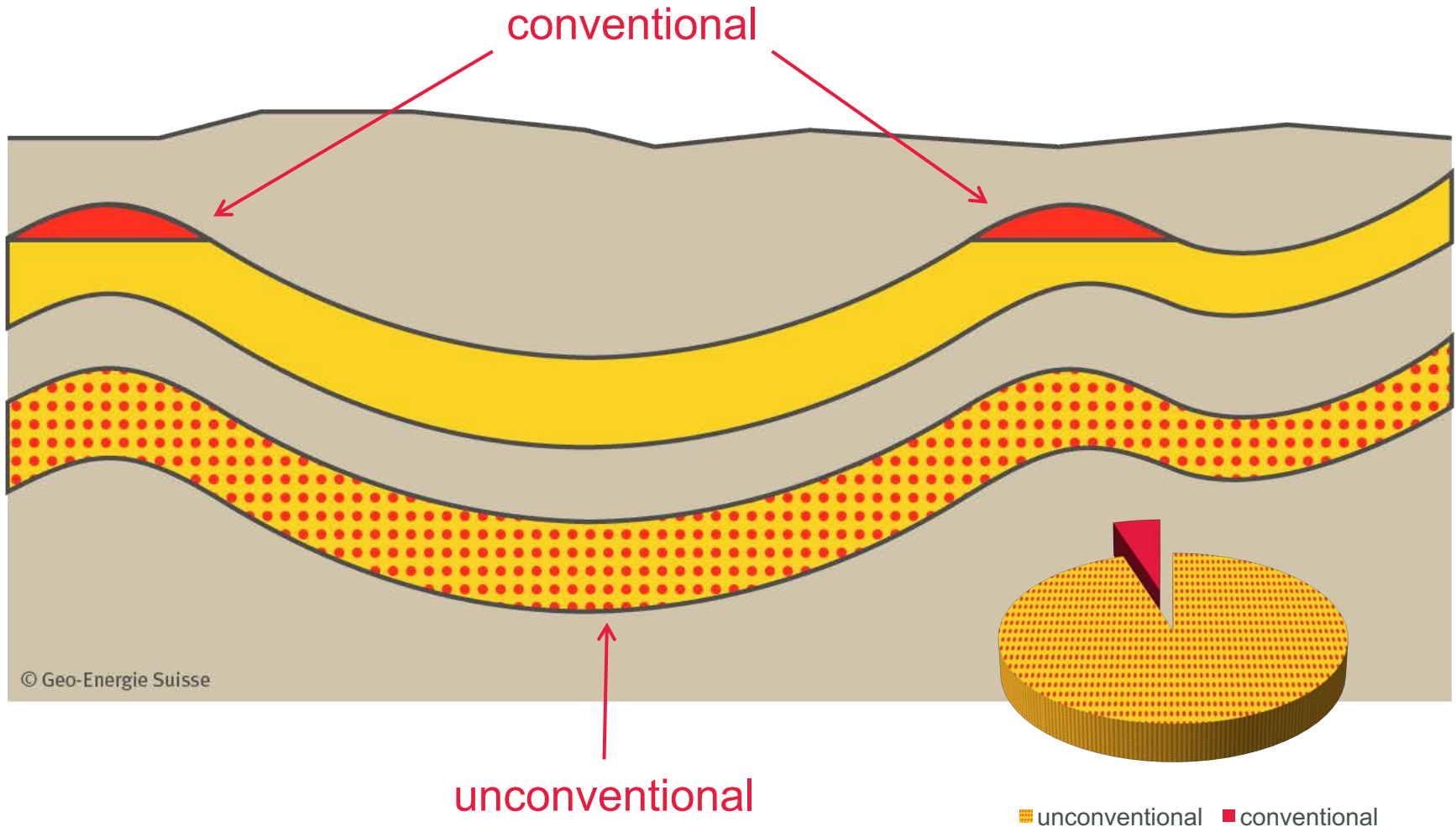
**High energy yield of the reservoir**

**(up to a factor 10 compared to open-hole stimulation)**

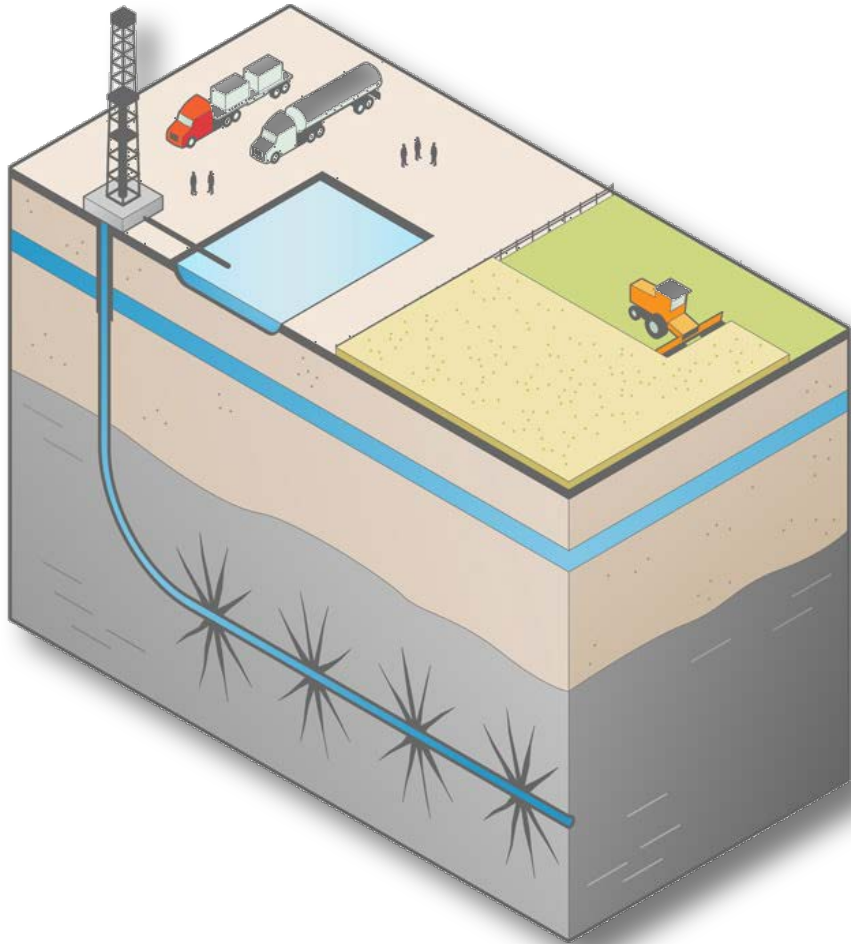


**High economic output**

# Analogy to the oil and gas exploration



# Analogy to the oil and gas exploration



## Message

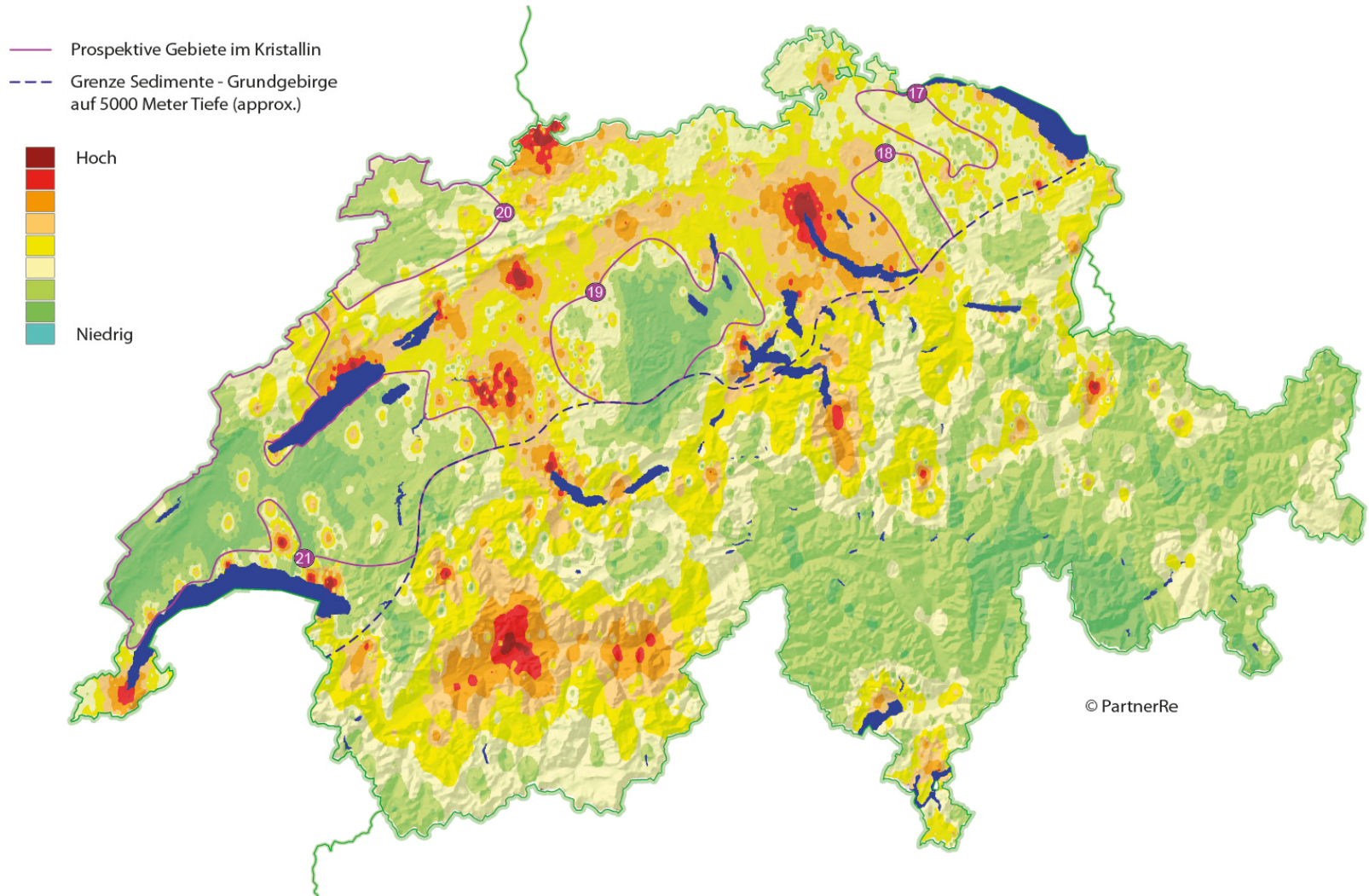
- Similar to the oil and gas exploration, most of the geothermal potential is spread out throughout the underground and is not concentrated in the few places with high natural permeability.
- And similar to the oil exploration, new technologies make it now possible to tap into this tremendous reserve of energy.

# Conclusion

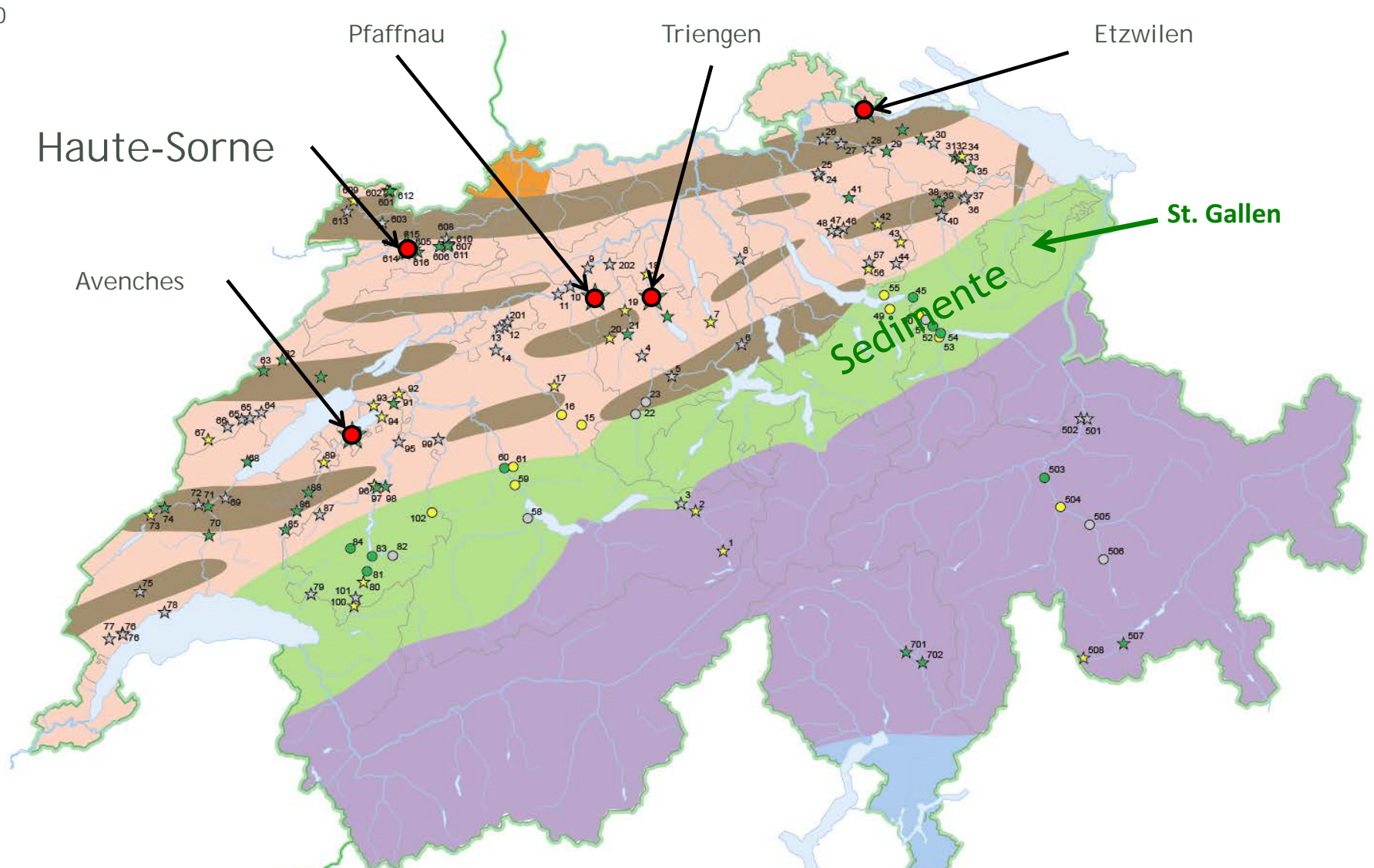
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- Large geothermal potential resides in Switzerland, but also worldwide in low permeability rocks.
- New advances in technology make it now possible to tap into this abundant, indigenous, clean and renewable energy.
- The new multi-stage stimulation concept of Geo-Energie Suisse enhances the hydraulic output while reducing the seismic risk.
- **R&D** is needed and the concept has to been demonstrated in **pilot projects**.
- Do you consider multi-stage stimulation worth thinking about for geothermal reservoirs in your country?
- We are open to share our ideas and expertise!

# Site selection EGS pilot plants: Low risk areas for first pilot projects and safety distance to large fault zones



# 130 potential sites for pilot projects were evaluated within different plays within crystalline basement and sediments

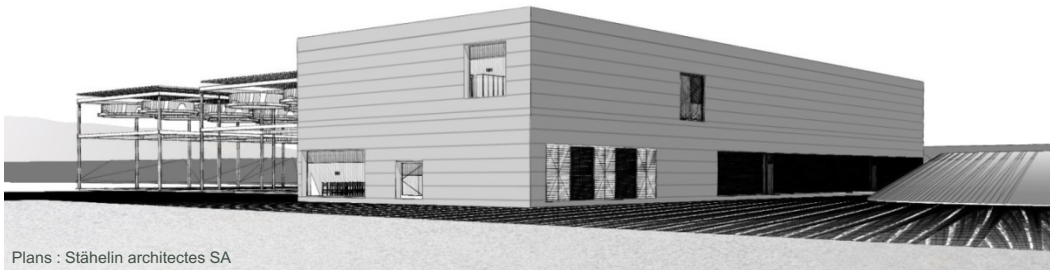


# Haute-Sorne, Canton Jura

31



# The Haute-Sorne EGS Pilot Project

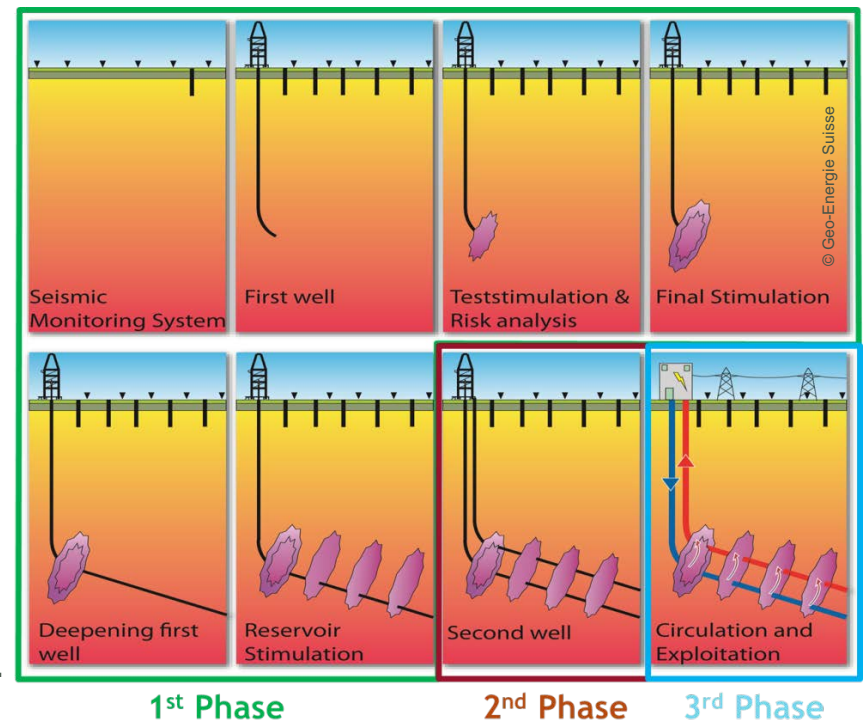


## Agenda

- 1st Phase: 2016-2018
- 2nd Phase: 2018-2019
- 3rd Phase: 2019-2020

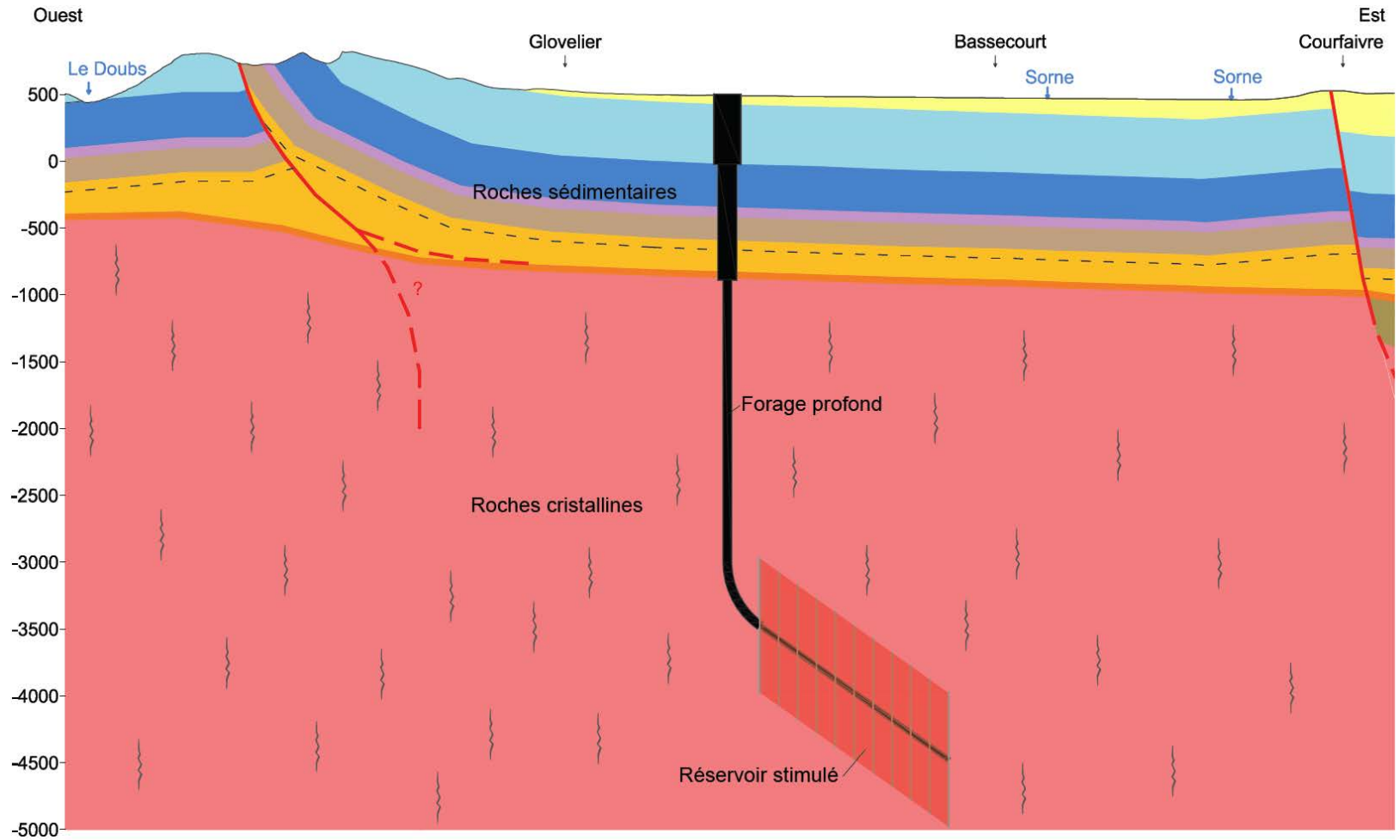
## Project Summary

- The Haute-Sorne pilot project in Canton Jura, Switzerland, is the first project worldwide that foresees multistage stimulation to achieve water circulation between two deep boreholes drilled through the crystalline basement.
- The project is in the final phase of obtaining the risk guarantee from the State that covers up to 60% of the exploration costs in case of failure.
- As a pilot and demonstration project, subsidies from the State can be expected.

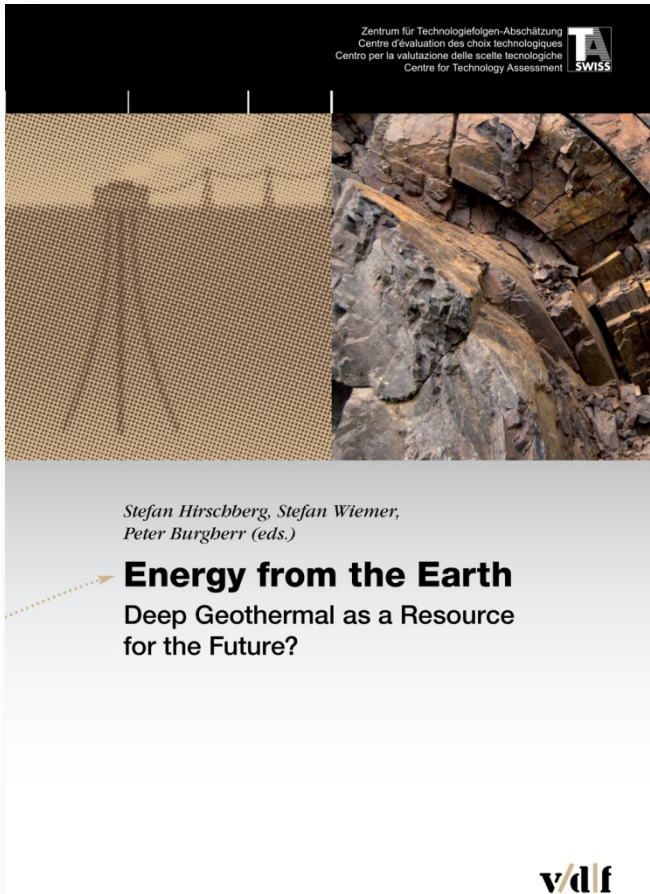




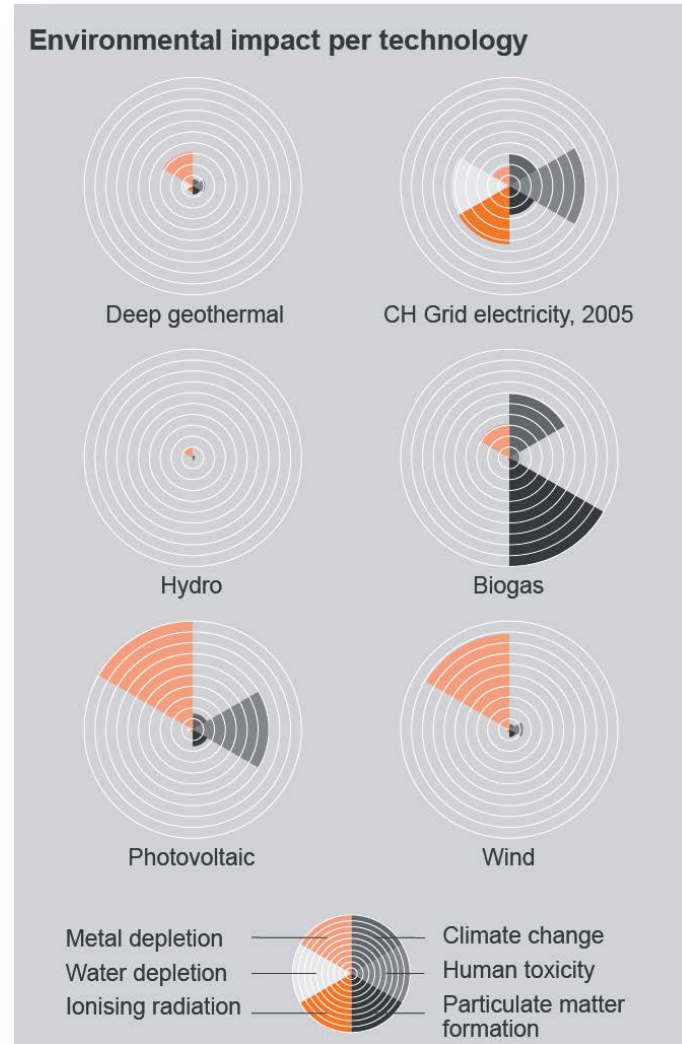
# Geological cross section



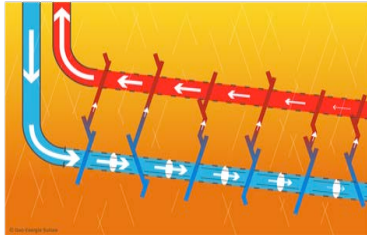
# What's about the environmental impact?



<https://www.ta-swiss.ch/en/projects/mobility-energy-climate/deep-geothermal-energy/>



# What's about the seismic risk?

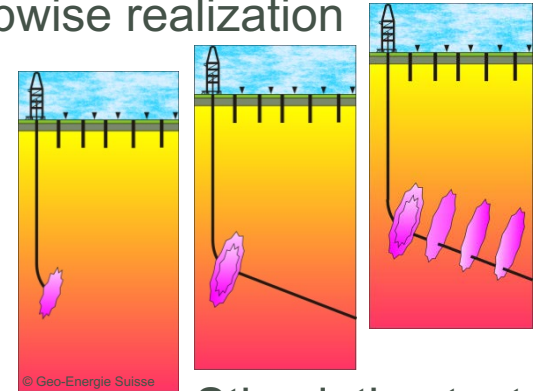


Safer concept

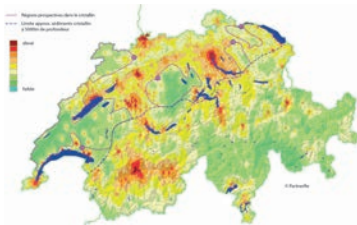


Risk studies

Stepwise realization



Stimulation test



Site selection



Continuous risk evaluation



Conservative traffic light system



Real-time monitoring

# Communication: Information Meetings

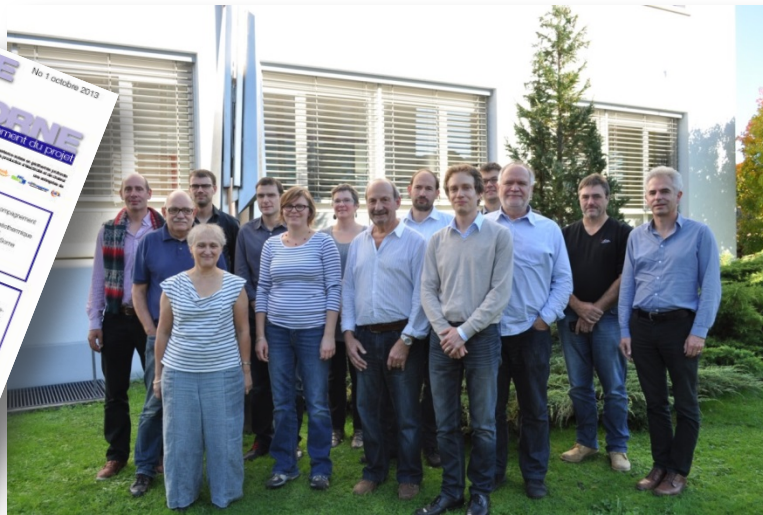
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- Several information meetings organised for the population
- Specific information meetings for the political authorities
- Publication of 4 information bulletins

# Communication: Accompanying group

- Representatives of cantonal and communal authorities, NGO's and Geo-Energie Suisse
- Information and discussion platform during planning and filing phases of the project
- Information relay for the population
- Regular meetings, publication of information bulletins



# Permit delivered June 15, 2015

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Peter Meier,  
CEO  
Geo-Energie Suisse

Philippe Receveur,  
Minister  
Canton of Jura

Jean-Bernard Vallat,  
President  
Commune of Haute-Sorne

# What's about the environmental impact?

Geo-Energie Suisse SA  
09.07.2014, Version 05

Rapport d'in-  
struction géothermique  
Site Haute-Sorne

GES\_RIE\_Haute

**JURA**  **CH** RÉPUBLIQUE ET CANTON DU JURA

DÉPARTEMENT DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET DE L'ÉQUIPEMENT

SERVICE DU DÉVELOPPEMENT TERRITORIAL  
**SECTION DES PERMIS DE CONSTRUIRE**

2, rue des Moulins  
CH-2800 Delémont  
t +41 32 420 53 10  
f +41 32 420 53 11  
permis.sdt@jura.ch

Delémont, le 22/05/15/VZ/AF

## Permis de construire

Commune : **Haute-Sorne**                      Localité : **Glovelier**

La Section des permis de construire de la République et Canton du Jura,  
vu la demande de permis de construire n° 307/14 du 28.10.14 présentée et publiée selon les prescriptions  
du décret du 11.12.92 concernant la procédure d'octroi du permis de construire, en vertu des lois, décrets,  
ordonnances et règlements communaux en vigueur,

délivre à **Geo-Energie Suisse AG, Reitergasse 11, 8004 Zürich**

INGENIEURS\*  
INGÉNIEURS PAR NATURE

PROFONDE HAUTE-  
EN PHASES DE FORAGE

CSO INGENIEURS SA  
Chemin de Morbilly 78  
Case postale 50  
CH-1005 Lausanne 20  
t +41 21 820 70 00  
f +41 21 820 70 01  
o lausanne@csos.ch  
www.csos.ch

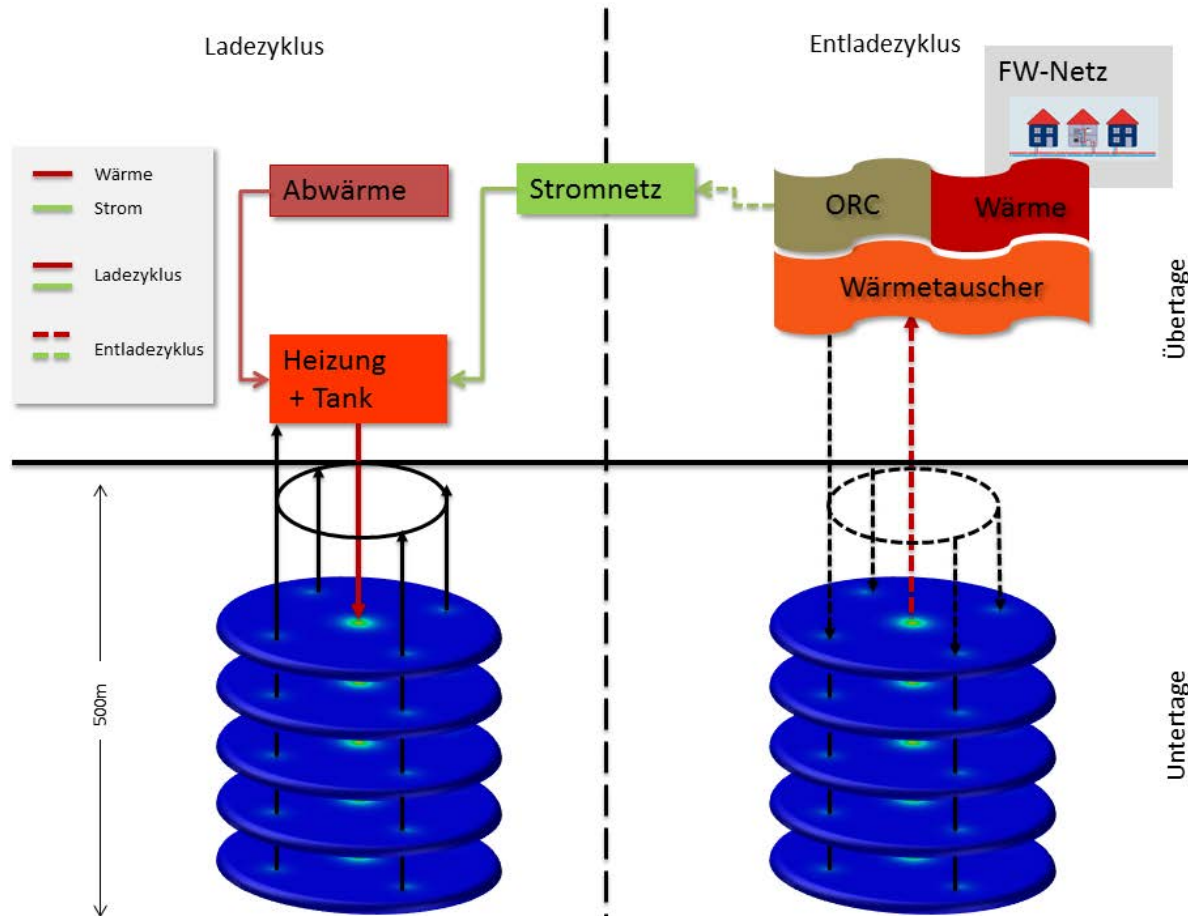
tel 032 422 61 14 / fax 032 422 61 15  
internet: <http://www.sdt.ch>, Email: [permis@jura.ch](mailto:permis@jura.ch)

# Time plan Haute-Sorne



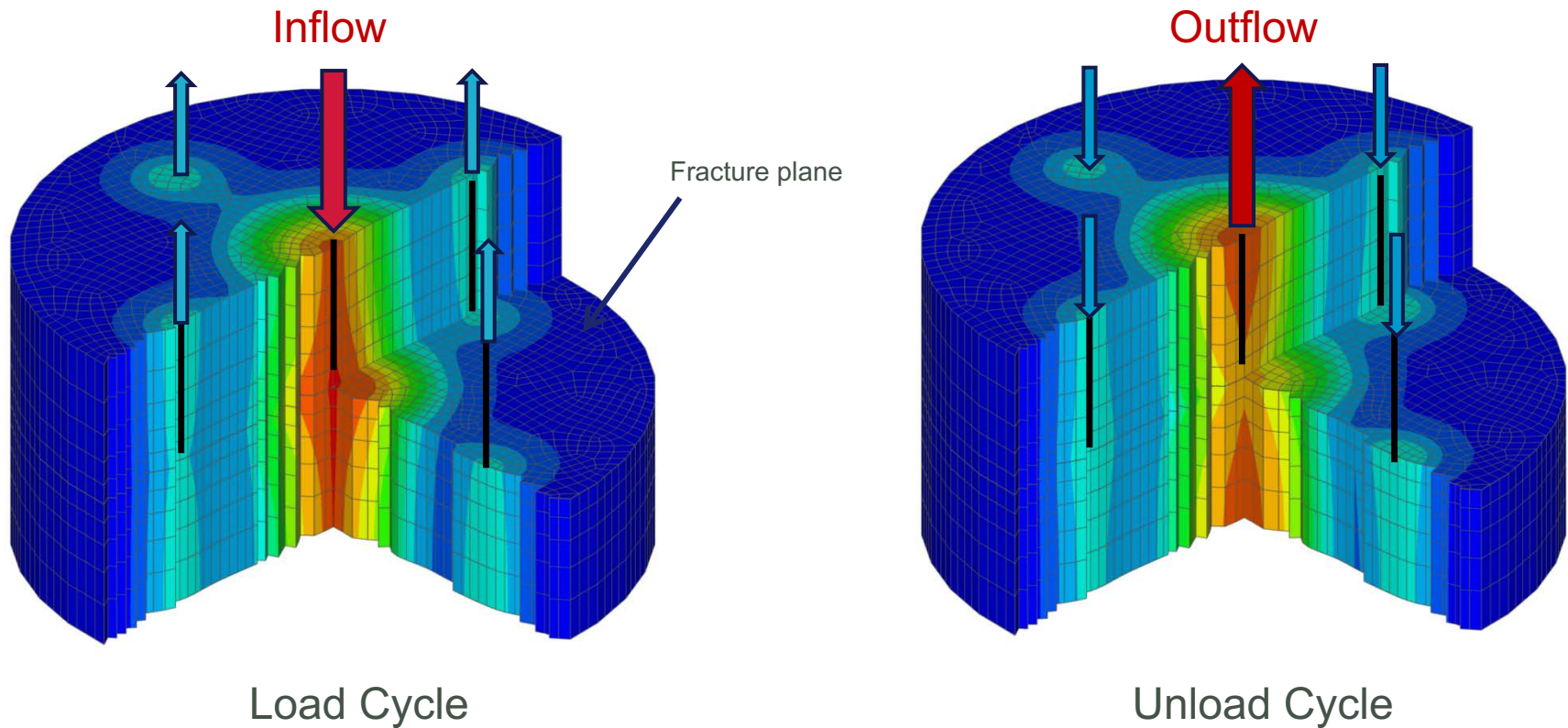


# Other applications using EGS / fracturing technology: Underground heat storage



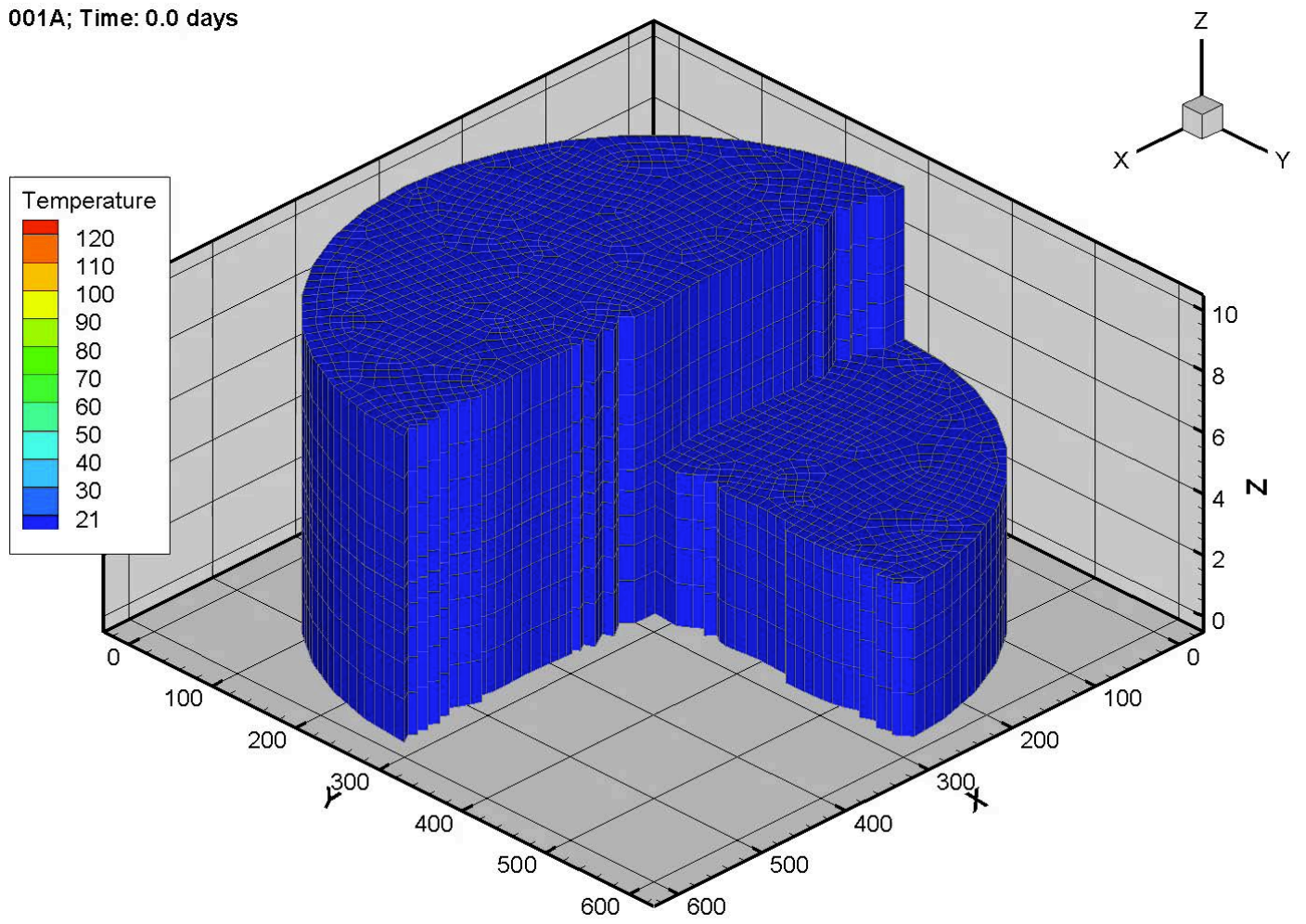
# Loading / unloading of single fracture

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# Loading / unloading of a single fracture

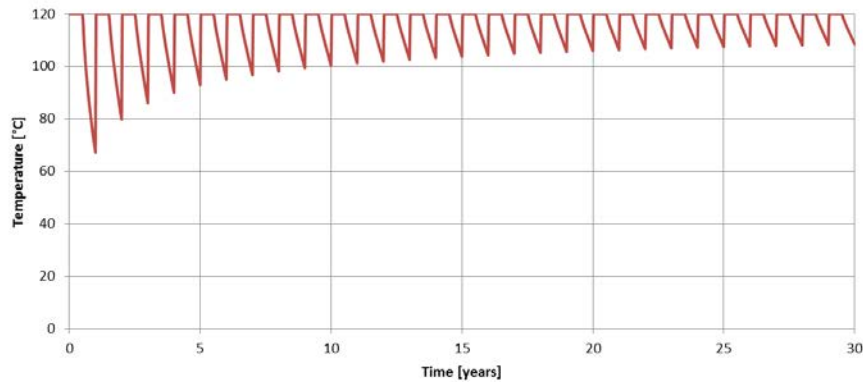
001A; Time: 0.0 days



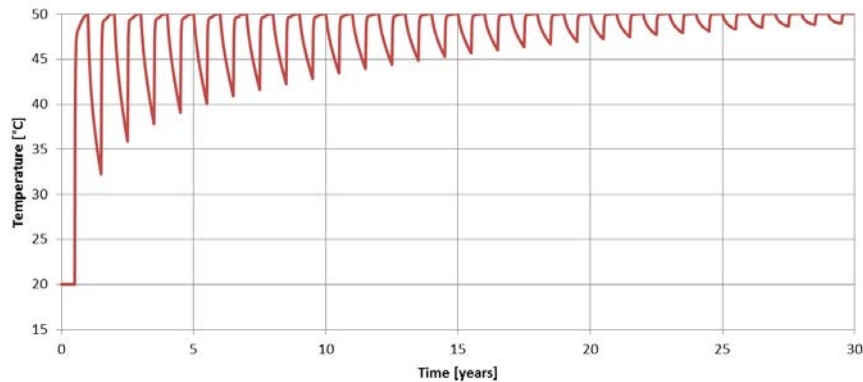
# Temperature and power

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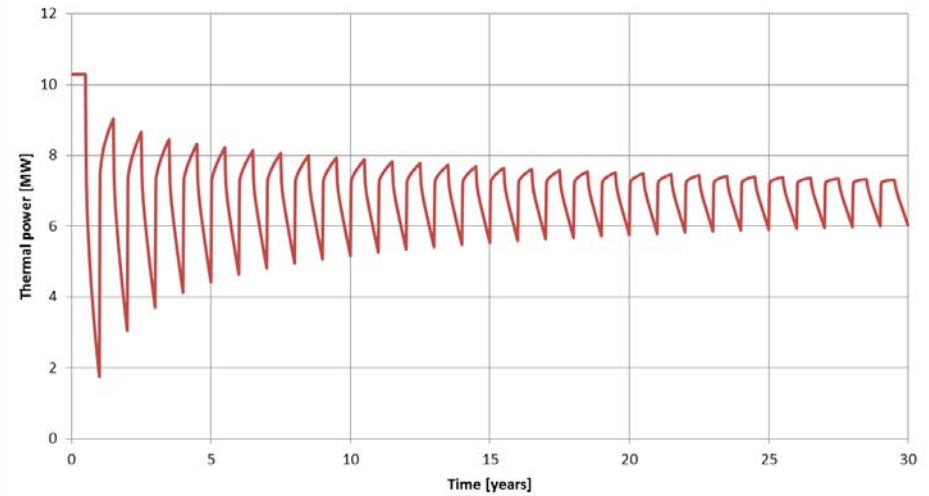
Temperature at main well



Temperature at auxiliary well

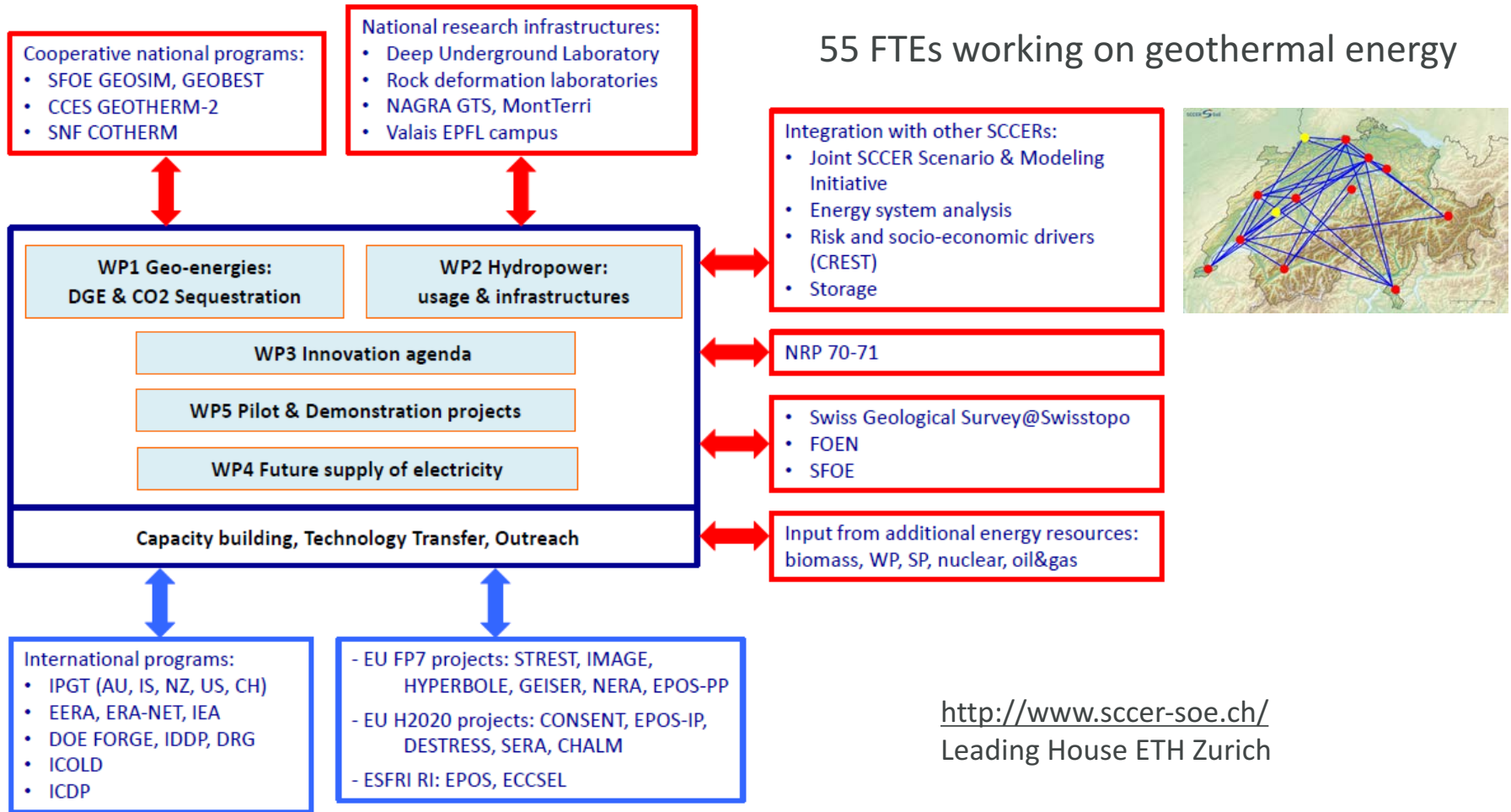


Net thermal power





# SWISS COMPETENCE CENTER FOR ENERGY RESEARCH – SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY/ENERGY (2013-2020)



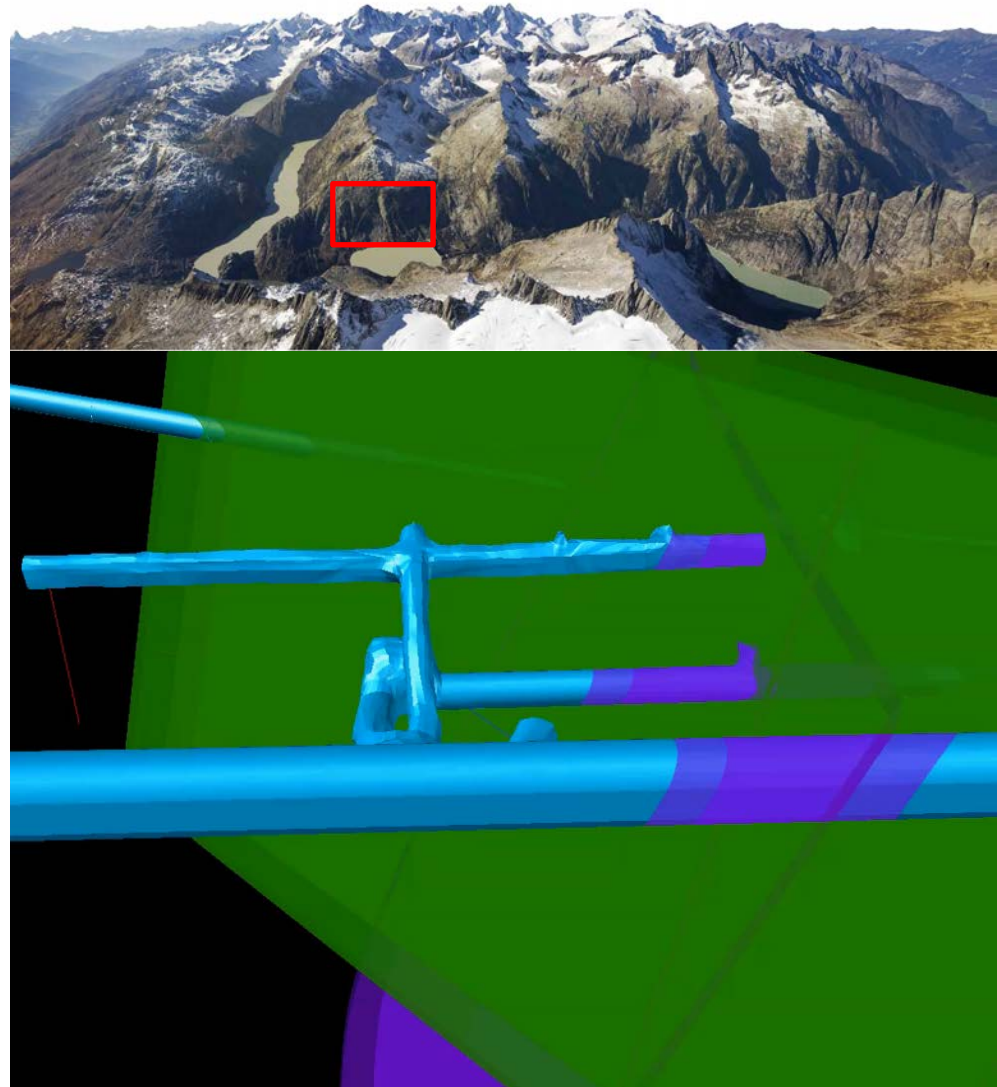
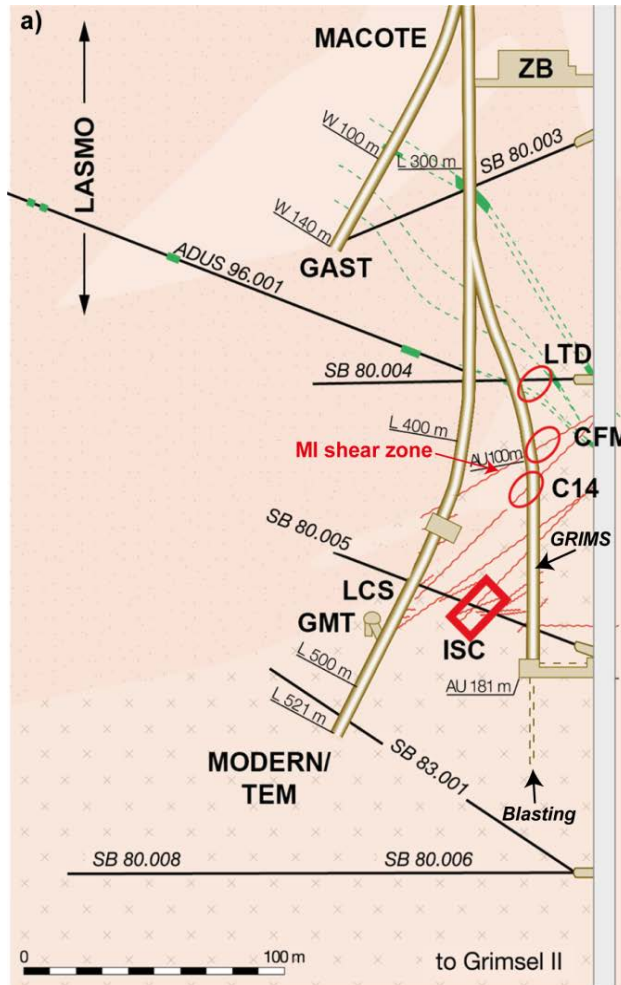


## Flagship stimulation experiment in the deep underground laboratory, risk study

SCCER Annual meeting 12 – 13.09.2016, Sitten, Switzerland

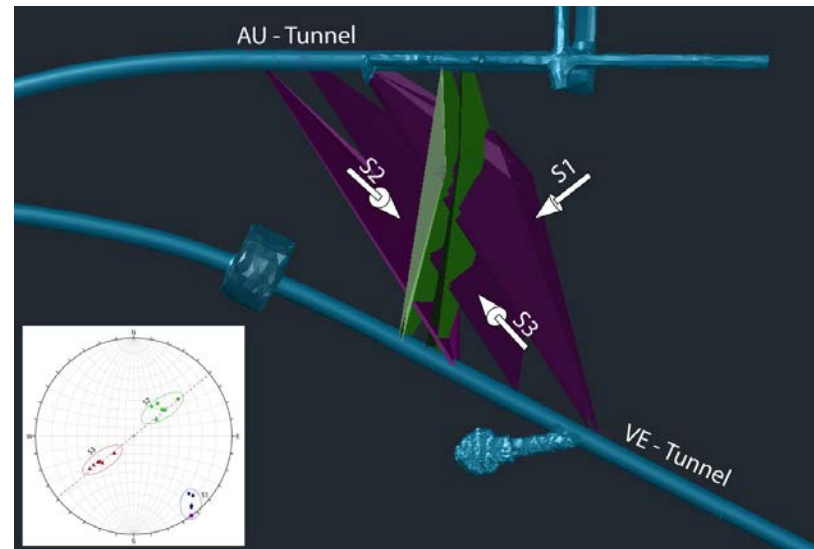
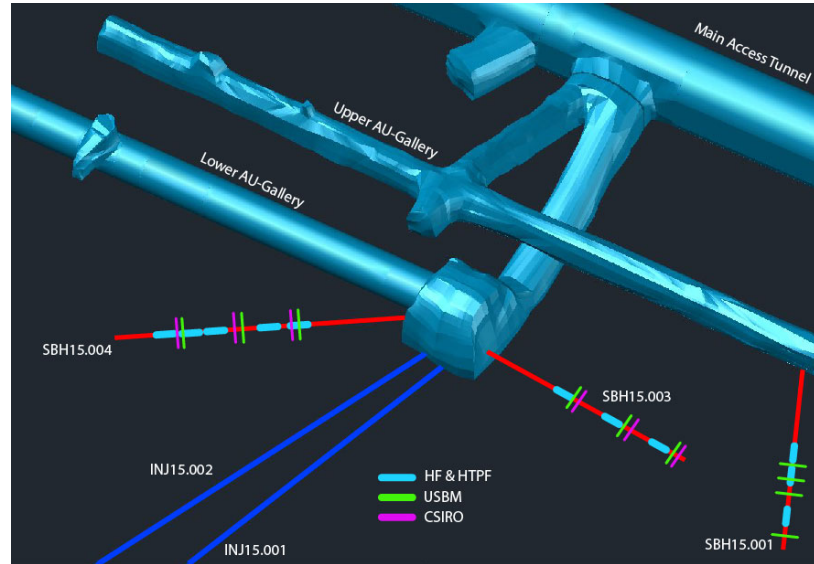
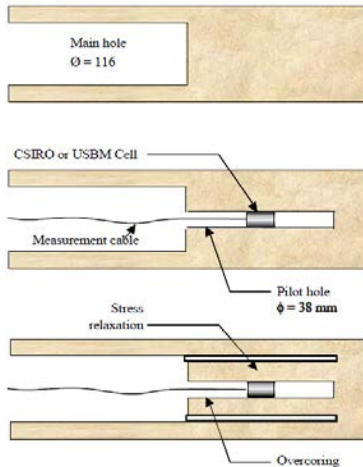
F. Amann, V. Gischig, J. Doetsch, M. Jalali, M. Broccardo, S. Esposito, H. Krietsch, B. Valley, C. Madonna, M. Nejati, M. Klepikova, K. Evans, A. Kittlilä, C. Jordi, L. Villiger, B. Brixel, N. Dutler D. Giardini, HR. Maurer, M. Saar, S. Löw, S. Wiemer, T. Driesner

# ISC experiment at the Grimsel Test Site

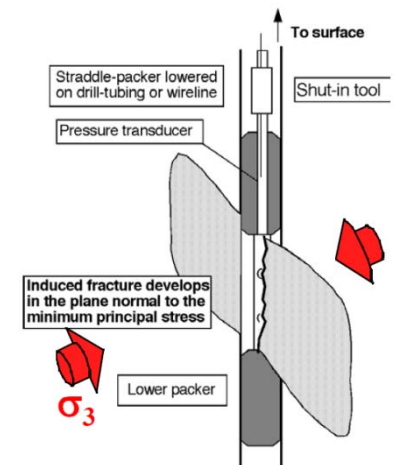


# Stress measurements

## Overcoring



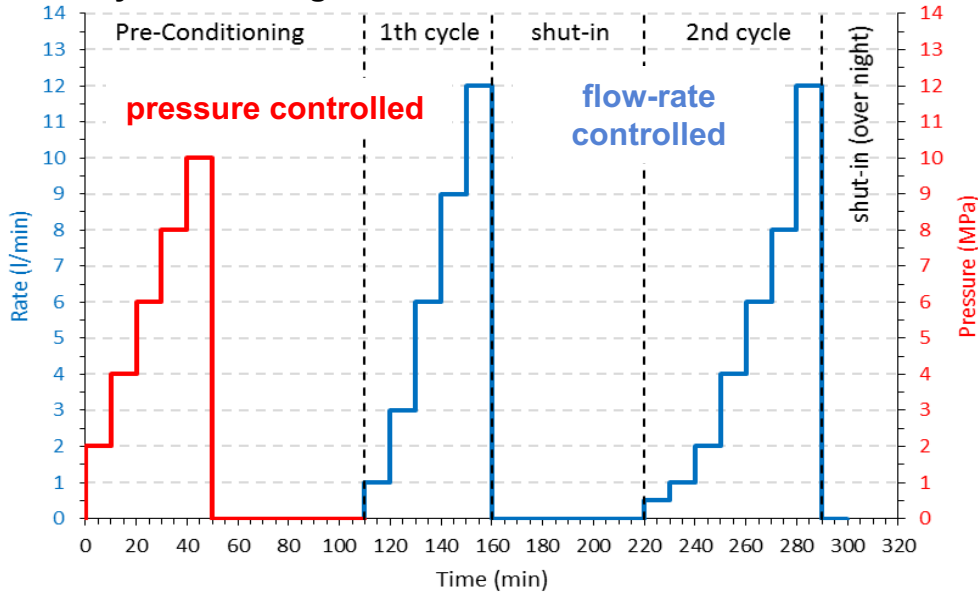
## Hydraulic fracturing



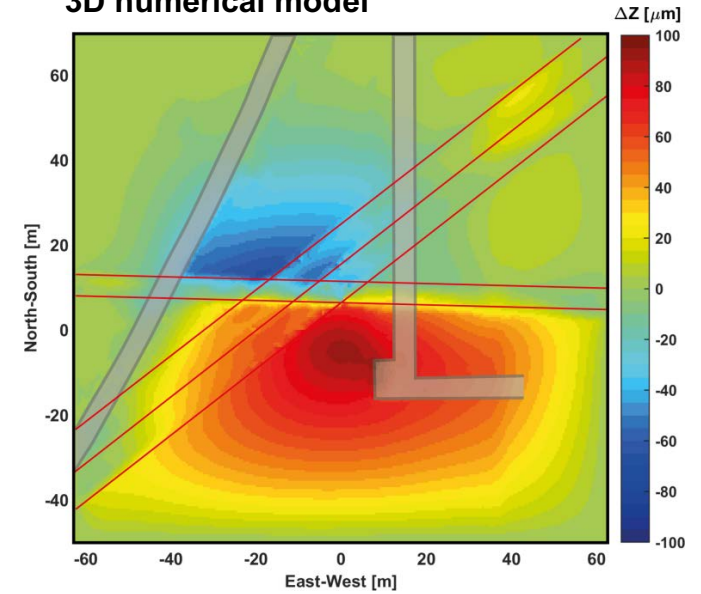


# Stimulation phase

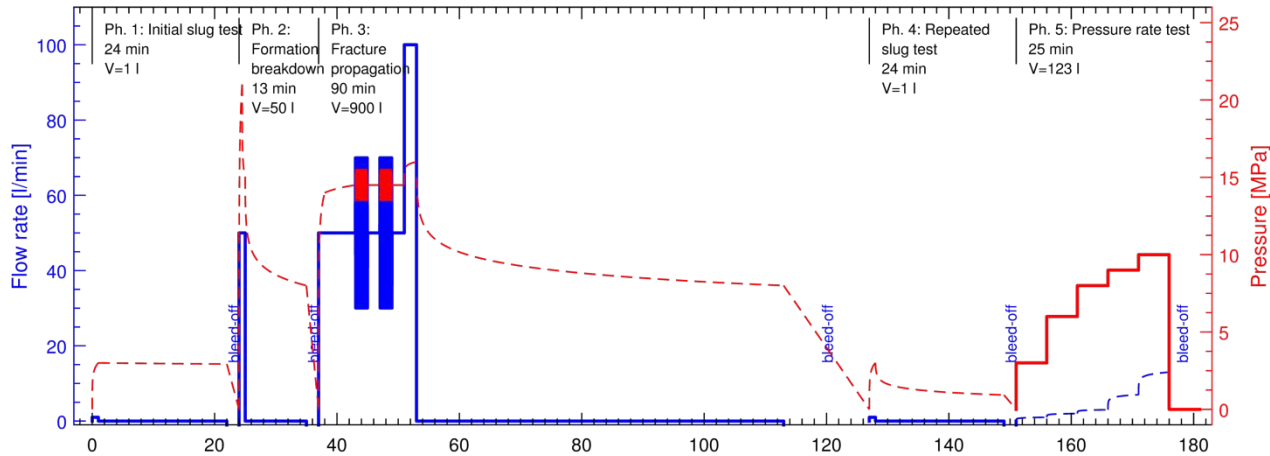
## Hydro-shearing



## 3D numerical model

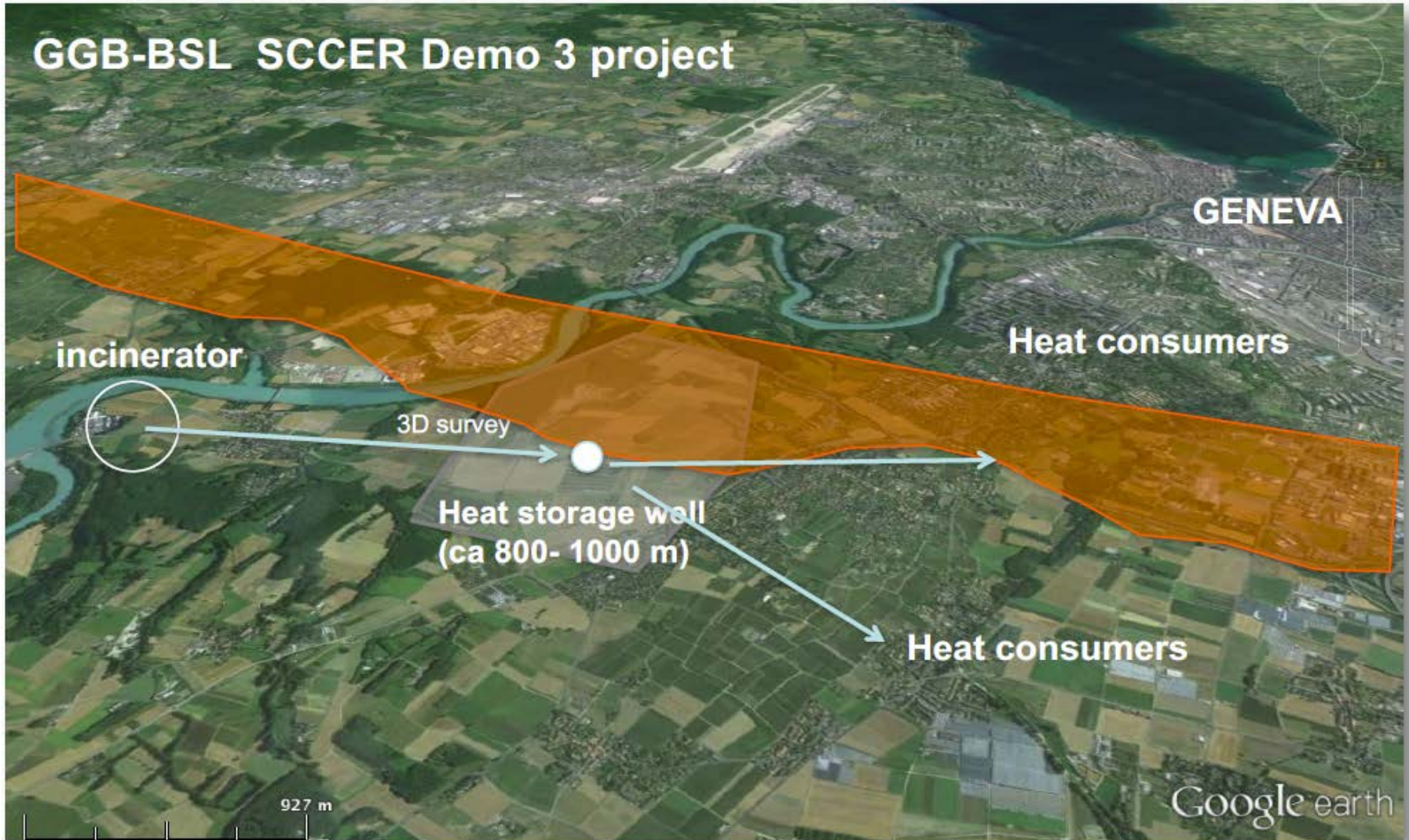


## Hydro-fracturing





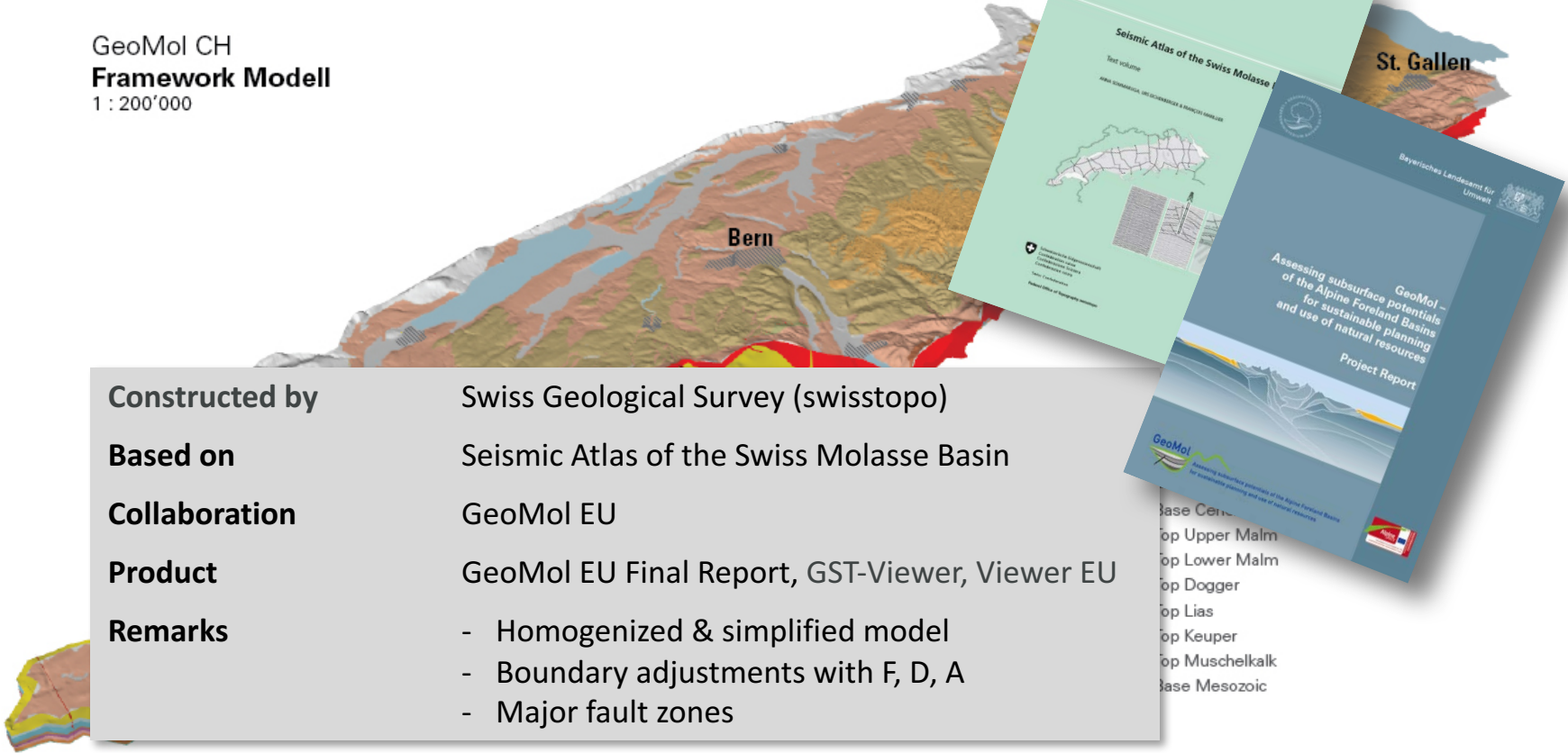
# PROSPECTING EXPLORING FOR HEAT STORAGE AND USAGE IN THE GREATER GENEVA BASIN





# GEO-DATA INFRASTRUCTURE AND ANALYSIS

GeoMol CH  
**Framework Modell**  
1 : 200'000



<b>Constructed by</b>	Swiss Geological Survey (swisstopo)
<b>Based on</b>	Seismic Atlas of the Swiss Molasse Basin
<b>Collaboration</b>	GeoMol EU
<b>Product</b>	GeoMol EU Final Report, GST-Viewer, Viewer EU
<b>Remarks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Homogenized &amp; simplified model</li><li>- Boundary adjustments with F, D, A</li><li>- Major fault zones</li></ul>



# KEY FOR SUPPORT FOR GEOTHERMAL: REVISIONS OF A NUMBER OF ACTS (ENERGY, CO<sub>2</sub>, NUCLEAR ENERGY, ....)

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- June 2011: Federal Council (government) with approval of parliament decides to develop a new energy strategy
  - Trigger: Fukushima, plus convergent trends (cost reduction renewables, climate change, political instability in Middle East and North Africa...)
  - Sept 2013: Gov't sends bills to parliament
  - Features: exit nuclear when no longer technically safe, up efficiency & savings, decrease fossils, increase renewables
  - 30. Sep 2016: both chambers approve the Acts (optional referendum if 50'000 signatures are collected within 3 months against the Acts)
  - Nationalist conservatives launch collection of signatures and collect ~68'000 by 20 Jan 17)  
-> 21 May 2017 Swiss population will vote
  - In parallel, a people's initiative (100'000 signatures) calls for shut-down of nuclear after 45 years of operation
  - 45 years means that 3 of 5 plants would have had to be shut in by the end of 2017
  - Swiss voters reject «accelerated» phase-out vs. «orderly» phase-out on 27 November 2016 with a solid majority of 54%
  - In parallel, 1 February 2017: Federal Administration launches the consultation process of ordinances (implementation rules of policy support measures) which are subordinate to the Acts
  - Subject to 21 May 2017 results: all will enter into force on 1 January 2018
-



# HEADLINES: 1ST SET OF MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT SWITZERLAND'S ENERGY STRATEGY 2050

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**No new nuclear (ea. of the 5 existing ones [24 TWh in 2015] retire at end of their technical/safe lifetime)**

**New renewables (excl. hydro) targets for electricity production:**

2015: 2.8 TWh; 2020: 4.4 TWh

2035: 11.4 TWh

**Energy consumption relative to the year 2000:**

2000: 854 970 TJ, 2015: 838 360 TJ

2020: -16% and 2035: -43% (rel. 2000)

**Of which electricity consumption:**

2000: 52.4 TWh, 2015: 58.2 TWh

2020: -3% and 2035: -13% (rel. 2000)

**CO<sub>2</sub> targets remain unchanged:**

-20% by 2020 rel. to 1990

Revision of CO<sub>2</sub>-Act has been initiated

New target: -50% by 2030 rel. to 1990

-30% domestic and -20% foreign

**Geothermal energy policy measures** (target enforcement date: 1.1.2018)

**Geothermal guarantee scheme (until 2031)**

Increase coverage to 60% of total sunk subsurface development cost

**Exploration support scheme (until 2031)**

Max. 60% towards pre-spud exploration activity and first wells to confirm the presence of a reservoir

Both schemes are funded via a max. 0.1 Rp. per kWh from high voltage grid surcharge (for *all* measures a cap of max. 2.3 Rp per kWh)

**Feed-in tariffs continue (until ~2024)**

**Support scheme for direct use geothermal energy (until 2020, and likely to 2025)**

CHF 30 mln p.a. from CO<sub>2</sub>-levy on heating oil

**Geothermal in the “national interest”**

Accelerated planning and permitting



# PLANNED POLICY SUPPORT MEASURES FOR GEOTHERMAL – ENERGY ACT / CO2-ACT

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## **Energy Act Art. 33** Contributions to exploration and Geothermal guarantees

- Program financed by a max. CHF 1 per MWh of electricity transmitted via the national high voltage grid (~ 60 TWh) -> at most CHF 60 mln per year

## **Energy Act Art. 19** Feed-in tariffs for geothermal energy

Installed Capacity	Hydrothermal (CHF / MWh)	Enhanced/Engineered Geothermal Systems (CHF / MWh)
≤5 MW	400.0	475.0
≤10 MW	360.0	435.0
≤20 MW	280.0	355.0
>20 MW	227.0	302.0

Average retail / consumer end price: CHF 150 / MWh

Average annual consumption 4 person single family home: ~ 5 MWh



# PLANNED POLICY SUPPORT MEASURES FOR GEOHERMAL – ENERGY ACT / CO<sub>2</sub>-ACT

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## **Energy Act Art. 33** Contributions to exploration and Geothermal guarantees

<sup>1</sup>Prospecting and exploration activities for geothermal power projects may be supported by a financial contribution of up to 60%

<sup>2</sup>Geothermal guarantees may be given to cover investments into exploration and development of geothermal resources for power generation. The guarantee may not exceed more than 60% of the admissible costs.

<sup>3</sup>An exploration project may not receive a geothermal guarantee.

<sup>4</sup>The Federal Council specifies the implementation rules, in particular the admissible costs and the procedures.

## **CO<sub>2</sub>-Act Art. 34 § 2**

<sup>2</sup>To minimize in the long-term CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions in the building sector the Confederation may support projects for direct use of geothermal energy to supply heat. The Confederation dedicates a small part [of the CO<sub>2</sub>-tax revenues] but no more than CHF 30 million per year. The Federal Council specifies the implementation rules, in particular the admissible costs and the procedures.

### **1 CHF ~ 1USD**

**CO<sub>2</sub>-tax:** levied on fossil fuels used for heating; currently CHF 84 per ton of CO<sub>2</sub>. About CHF 900 million in tax revenues, of which CHF 300 million towards the *building program (energy savings, efficiencies and CO<sub>2</sub> emission reductions)* and the remainder towards rebates on health insurance and employer's social insurance premiums



# PLANNED SUPPORT FOR GEOTHERMAL IN SWITZERLAND

Estimated Monetary Value of a Project (EMV)  
 =  
 Probability of Success (POS) \* NPV<sub>success</sub>  
 +  
 Probability of Failure \* NPV<sub>failure</sub>

Installed Capacity (P <sub>el</sub> )	Feed-in tariff (Rp./kWh)
≤ 5 MW	40.0 / 47.5
≤ 10 MW	36.0 / 43.5
≤ 20 MW	28.0 / 35.5
> 20 MW	22.7 / 30.2

EMV =

POS \* NPV<sub>success</sub>

+ (1-POS) \* NPV<sub>failure</sub>

**Federal exploration grant: 60% prospecting and 60% of proving the reserve (i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> well)**

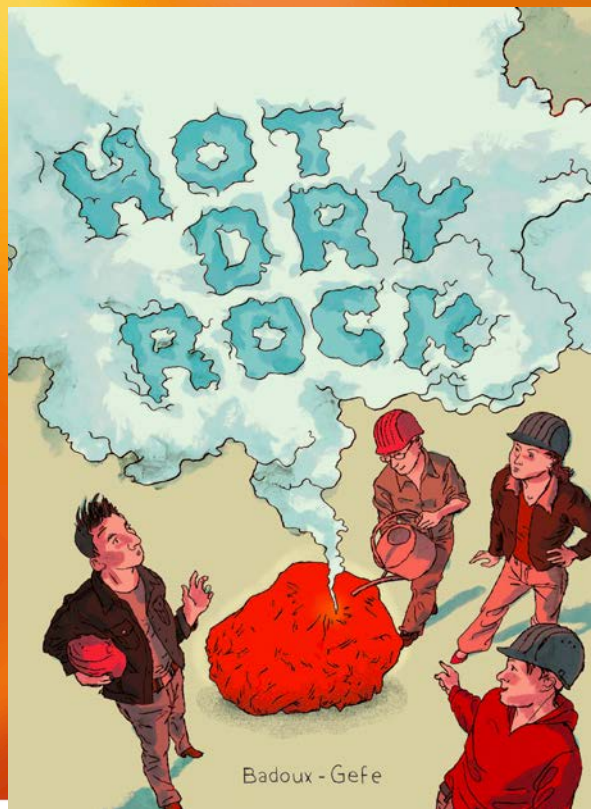
**Federal geothermal guarantee: Covers up to 60% of sunk subsurface project development cost**

- Federally sponsored R&D projects and funds for pilot and demonstration projects
- Swiss Fed. Office of Energy
  - Swiss Nat. Science Foundation
  - Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology
  - CTI Swiss Innovation Promotion Agency

**Improved support measures likely after 2018**



Swiss Centre of Competence  
for Deep Geothermal Energy  
for power and heat production



Thank you for your attention!