

8th Swiss Parabolic Flight Campaign: A Clear Shift Toward Commercial Space

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-- The 8th Swiss Parabolic Flight Campaign, organized by the [Center for Space and Aviation Switzerland and Liechtenstein](#) (CSA), take place from 7 to 11 September 2026 at the [Switzerland Innovation Park Zurich](#) and Dübendorf Airfield. It marks a clear shift in the use of microgravity research in Switzerland. Of this year's 18 experiments, 11, nearly two-thirds, are directly related to pharmaceuticals, drug development, or enabling biotechnologies. Several experiments involve commercial technologies or are

being developed in collaboration with commercial partners. Organized and conducted by SkyLab, the civil research flight facility of the Center for Space and Aviation Switzerland and Liechtenstein (CSA), the campaign reflects a broader transition from studying microgravity to

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We are moving from studying microgravity to using microgravity.”

*Prof. Dr. Dr. Oliver Ullrich,
Chairman of the Board of
Directors, CSA*

using it as a tool to validate technologies, improve production processes, and prepare commercially relevant applications for future operations in low Earth orbit.

This year's 18 experiments include pharmaceutical manufacturing, space biomanufacturing, organoid cultivation, automated molecular biology systems, medical devices, pressure-suit technology, and hardware for future space stations. This shift is particularly visible in

biotechnology and manufacturing: the Swiss company Prometheus Life Technologies and the public-private research and technology organization CSEM (Centre Suisse d'Electronique et de Microtechnique) are testing components of an organoid cultivation system for future space applications, while U.S. companies and research institutes are evaluating technologies for pharmaceutical crystallization, automated biological sample preparation and genomic analysis, intravenous fluid delivery, insulin-related medical applications, autonomous monitoring of



NLR's Cessna Citation II, taking-off to a parabolic flight from Dübendorf Air Base (VBS)

microbial production systems, and universal payload interfaces for future space stations.

The campaign's changing character also reflects a growing international network centred on the Switzerland Innovation Park Zurich at Dübendorf Airfield. A strategic agreement with the University of Florida, signed in 2025, focuses explicitly on in-space manufacturing, life sciences, biomanufacturing, technology transfer, and commercialization. 9 University of Florida teams are participating in this year's campaign with experiments ranging from engineered microorganisms and enzyme catalysis to cardiac tissue, skeletal muscle, and human-health research. The collaboration demonstrates how international partnerships can move rapidly from strategic agreements to actual flight experiments.

On 10 September, the Center for Space and Aviation Switzerland and Liechtenstein (CSA) will further expand this network by signing a Memorandum of Understanding with The Ohio State University. The collaboration includes microgravity and altered-gravity research, human health and performance, advanced manufacturing, enabling space technologies, and the joint use of parabolic-flight opportunities. 8 experiments in this year's Swiss campaign have already emerged from the Ohio State–Starlab research environment.

The long-term commercial outlook is provided by [Starlab Space](#), which signed an agreement with CSA and the Switzerland Innovation Park Zurich in 2024. The partnership aims to position Dübendorf within Starlab's international network for payload development and operations, with particular emphasis on biotechnology, biomedicine, and pharmaceuticals. Parabolic flight therefore serves as an early qualification step in a development pathway leading from



Testing of the SAGE CubeSat during the 6th Swiss Parabolic Flight Campaign in Dübendorf. Third from right: Rabea Rogge, Crew Dragon astronaut (Fram2 mission), second from left: Oliver Ullrich (UZH/R.Sablotny)



Air Base Dübendorf with Switzerland Innovation Park Zurich (VBS)

laboratories in Switzerland Innovation Park Zurich to future commercial activities in low Earth orbit.

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