

# Unofficial SERI perspective on ET

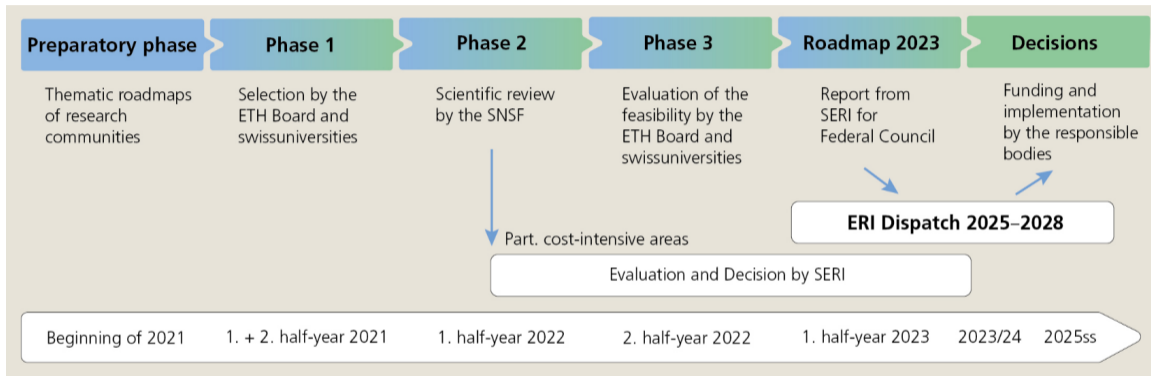
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**Promoting Swiss involvement in GW science**

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- On July 22, we held a discussion on the procedure to include ET in the Swiss RI roadmap
  - Xavier Reymond (SERI) was kind enough to discuss with us
  
- The following is an unofficial summary of the discussion

# The Swiss research infrastructure roadmap



- For SERI to get involved in a project, it must be in the Swiss RI roadmap
  - The 2023 roadmap is underway (above), and ET is not included in it
  - The next roadmap is in 2027, and we would like to see ET included in that one

## ET and the Swiss RI roadmap

- As mentioned this morning, ET was approved as an ESFRI project in June 2021
  - Key step, but ESFRI does not infer any decision about funding being allocated for the RI
  - **Swiss RI roadmap is different:** identifies Swiss participations in international research infrastructure projects where the project and the Swiss involvement are both mature enough for a funding line to be opened
- ET is not yet at the required level to be in the 2023 Swiss RI roadmap
  - Excellent that CHAPS and CHIPP both mention ET in their roadmaps, but not sufficient
  - ET project needs to be at a stage where there is a legal structure in place, with concrete obligations and expectations
- ET therefore will not be mentioned in the core 2023 roadmap
  - However, GW can be mentioned as a key emerging field, listing ET as a possible example

# Preparing for the 2027 roadmap

- The legal structure of ET is being addressed on a similar timescale
  - Supported by the “ET-PP” INFRA-DEV project, which takes place 2022–2026
  - ET-PP includes Swiss participation: SERI funding one position via EU-replacement scheme
- Beyond the legal structure, important to ensure full Swiss community is involved
  - Aim for an inter-disciplinary GW centre in Switzerland, with support from different rectors
    - EPFL did this with SKAO, and UniGe did this with CTAO
  - This helps SERI to understand the importance of a project to the Swiss community
  - This would represent an “intermediate phase” of Swiss participation
- Today’s event is a potential first step to start down this path

# The intermediate phase of Swiss participation

- Transition from proposed project to international organisation will not happen in one step
  - All of the other big international RIs went through an intermediate stage
  - This is typically a limited liability corporation or similar
    - Examples: CTAO as a German GmbH, SKAO as a company in Manchester
- Intermediate stage is needed so the project can hire dedicated staff for project organisation
  - Need to be able to have staff who are not beholden to a single institute
- In this stage, one Swiss institute would take the lead for Swiss participation in ET
  - That institute would become a shareholder in this time-limited company
  - If this institute is really representing Switzerland and not only itself, there is a funding line at SERI to support international cooperation/coordination research
  - This step is independent of the roadmap process: does not commit Switzerland, rather the institute is taking on the financial risk if the company goes bankrupt/etc

# Summary

- If Swiss community intends to participate in ET, we should aim for the 2027 roadmap
  - Including ET in the Swiss RI roadmap is a necessary step for SERI participation
- In order to do this, there are two key requirements
  - The ET project needs a legal structure: ET-PP working on this from 2022–2026
  - The Swiss community needs to show their interest/involvement in ET
    - Ideally via an inter-disciplinary GW centre for Switzerland, with support from multiple rectorors
    - This intermediate phase would likely involve one Swiss institute joining a future ET limited liability corporation as a shareholder, on behalf of the Swiss community
- No decisions are needed today, but hopefully we can start to understand the level of interest in the Swiss GW science community to pursue such a path