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Dübendorf, 07 September 2026

Press Release

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

The 8th Swiss Parabolic Flight Campaign, organized by the Centre for Space and Aviation Switzerland and Liechtenstein (CSA), will 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 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 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



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

"We are moving from studying microgravity to using microgravity," said Prof. Oliver Ullrich, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Center for Space and Aviation Switzerland and Liechtenstein (CSA).

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About the Center for Space and Aviation Switzerland and Liechtenstein (CSA)

Under the strategic objective of establishing space as an innovation flagship in the Canton of Zurich, Switzerland, the Center for Space and Aviation Switzerland and Liechtenstein (CSA) and the Switzerland Innovation Park Zurich (SIPZ) in Dübendorf are building one of Europe's most comprehensive ecosystems for end-to-end space and aviation research, technology development, and operational implementation. The CSA is a legal entity comprising 13 leading institutions from Switzerland and Liechtenstein with extensive experience in space and aviation. What is created in Dübendorf a European hub for research, trade, and logistics, serving as a transatlantic bridge between European space innovation and Florida's spaceport system. This includes direct flight connections between Dübendorf and the launch sites, enabling the rapid and seamless transfer of space systems, payloads, and products and linking European space innovation with the U.S. commercial space station ecosystem.

About the Switzerland Innovation Park Zurich

The Switzerland Innovation Park Zurich is a national deep-tech hub for applied research, technological development and entrepreneurial innovation, focusing on Robotics & Autonomous Systems, Space & Aviation, and Advanced Manufacturing & Materials. Research, industry, start-ups and capital are brought together here in one place to enable and accelerate innovation and bring it to industrial application. Academic partners such as ETH Zurich, the University of Zurich and Empa link the Zurich Innovation Park to world-class research and international networks. With 530,000 m² of floor space and around 15,000 workplaces, a veritable city dedicated to innovation and research is taking shape here. The site, situated on the airfield grounds in Dübendorf in the immediate vicinity of the city of Zurich, offers flexible tenancy terms as well as specialised laboratories and test environments, providing the ideal conditions for testing and scaling up new technologies under real-world conditions.