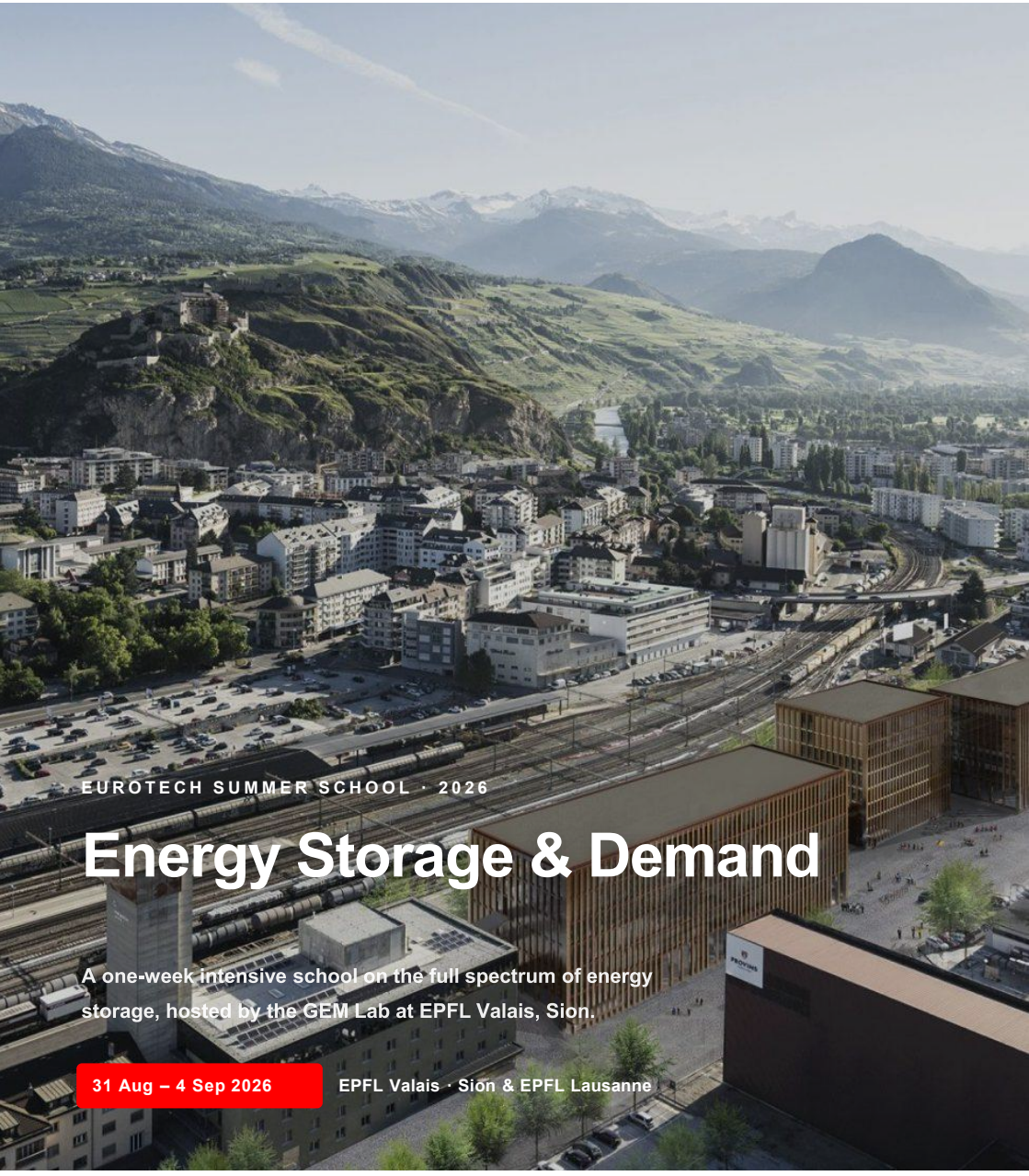

EUROTECH SUMMER SCHOOL · 2026

Energy Storage & Demand

A one-week intensive school on the full spectrum of energy storage, hosted by the GEM Lab at EPFL Valais, Sion.

31 Aug – 4 Sep 2026

EPFL Valais · Sion & EPFL Lausanne

EUROTECH UNIVERSITIES ALLIANCE

OPENING STATEMENT

Storage is the hinge of the energy transition.

Dear Participants,

Dr. Jan Van Herle
Director · GEM Lab, EPFL

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the EuroTech Energy Storage & Demand Summer School 2026 at EPFL. This week brings together students, researchers, and experts from across the EuroTech Universities Alliance to exchange ideas, learn from one another, and build new collaborations. Through lectures delivered by leading academics and industry experts, laboratory visits, and scientific discussions, participants will have the opportunity to explore current developments and emerging challenges in energy storage and demand management. The Summer School provides a stimulating environment in which knowledge, perspectives, and experiences can be shared across disciplines, fostering meaningful exchanges and strengthening connections within the broader energy research and innovation community.

Beyond the academic program, this week is also an opportunity to engage with peers from different backgrounds, discover new approaches and ideas, and develop relationships that may lead to future collaborations. I encourage you to make the most of these interactions and to contribute actively to the discussions throughout the week.

I would like to thank all speakers, contributors, and organizers for making this event possible, and all participants for their engagement and enthusiasm.

I hope you find this week inspiring, enjoyable, and rewarding, and that the knowledge gained and connections established here will continue to benefit you long after the Summer School has concluded.

On behalf of the entire organizing team,
I warmly welcome you to the EuroTech Energy Storage & Demand Summer School 2026

Dr. Jan Van Herle

Director, Group of Energy Materials (GEM) — EPFL Valais · Wallis, Sion

ABOUT

The EuroTech Universities Alliance

The EuroTech Universities Alliance is a strategic partnership of leading European universities of science and technology joining forces to build a strong, sustainable, sovereign, and resilient Europe. The partners bring their excellence in research and education, active engagement in vibrant eco-systems, and service to society. Together, they join forces to accelerate their research in high-tech focus areas and advocate for change through dedicated partners and a strong presence in Brussels.

Based on the EuroTech values, the partners aspire to a new level of cooperation by bringing together their inclusive, diverse, and sustainable campuses. The EuroTech Universities create a unique environment for international talents to lead a new generation of change agents in research, entrepreneurship, industry, and society.

EPFL & the GEM Lab

École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), founded in 1969 in Lausanne, Switzerland, is one of Europe's leading universities, recognized for its excellence in research, education, and innovation. It offers programs in engineering, computer science, natural sciences, architecture, and life sciences, with students, researchers, and faculty from more than 120 countries.

Known for its cutting-edge research, entrepreneurial culture, and strong industry ties, EPFL hosts the Group of Energy Materials (GEM), which specializes in fuel cells and electrolysers. GEM conducts interdisciplinary research across the modeling, design, experimental validation, and characterization of energy systems at the component, cell, stack, and system levels. Drawing on advanced laboratory facilities and close collaboration with experts in mechanical engineering, materials science, chemistry, and electron microscopy, alongside industrial and European research partners, GEM helps EPFL drive innovation in sustainable energy technologies.

The 2026 Summer School

The Summer School runs over one intensive week, from 31 August (starting 15:30) to 4 September 2026 (ending 13:30), across EPFL's campuses in Sion and Lausanne. The program pairs lectures by leading international academics and industry experts with hands-on laboratory visits, giving participants direct exposure to cutting-edge energy storage research. Attendees will also join an excursion highlighting the links between energy systems, natural resources, and sustainability, and a poster session offering the chance to present research, exchange ideas, and build collaboration across students, researchers, and professionals from diverse backgrounds. Updated information is available at https://eurotechsummerschool2026.epfl.ch/.

5	10	4	1
DAYS	LECTURES	LAB VISITS	EXCURSION

ORGANIZING TEAM

GEM Lab — EPFL

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Under the direction of **Dr.-Ing. Jan Van Herle** , Director of the GEM Lab. General enquiries: **eurotech2026@epfl.ch**

PROGRAM

Week at a glance

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
31 Aug	01 Sep	02 Sep	03 Sep	04 Sep
SION	SION	GRANDE DIXENCE/SION	LAUSANNE	SION
Arrival	Lecture 2	Grande Dixence Visit *(Lunch included)*	Travel	Lab visit 4
Lecture 1	Lecture 3	Poster session with aperitif	Lecture 6	Lecture 10
Sion Tour	Lecture 4	Free evening	Lecture 7	Conclusion
Welcome dinner	Lunch		Lunch	Lunch
	Joint discussion		Lecture 8	
	Lecture 5		Lab visit 2	
	Lab visit 1		Lecture 9	
	Free evening		Lab visit 3	
			Boat trip	
			Dinner by the lake	

Lecture · Discussion · Lab / travel · Excursion · Social · Poster

Detailed schedule on the following pages →

MONDAY
31 AUGUST

Introduction
EPFL Valais · Wallis, Sion

15:30
16:30

LECTURE 1

Energy on Demand: Why Storage Is Central to Future Energy Systems
Prof. Emeritus Alfred Rufer — EPFL

16:45
18:30

ICEBREAKER

Sion City Welcome Tour
A tour through the old town of Sion to get to know the group.

19:00
22:00

DINNER

Welcome Dinner: Cheese Fondue
A Valais classic to open the week.

TUESDAY
01 SEPTEMBER

Electrochemical Storage
EPFL Valais · Wallis, Sion

08:30
09:30

LECTURE 2

Large-Scale Storage with Redox Flow Batteries

Prof. Antoni Forner Cuenca — TU/e

09:45
10:45

LECTURE 3

Batteries Fundamentals, Research & E-Mobility

Prof. Priscilla Caliandro — BFH

11:00
12:00

LECTURE 4

Supercapacitors Challenge Batteries

Dr. Roland Gallay — Garmanage

12:00 – 13:30 · Lunch break

13:30
14:30

DISCUSSION

Joint discussion between morning speakers

Q&A session with all lecturers of the morning.

14:45
15:45

LECTURE 5

Grid-Connected Energy Storage: Applications and strategies.

Prof. Fabrizio Sossan — Gridlab at HES-SO Valais–Wallis

16:00
17:00

LAB VISIT 1

GEM Lab: Power-to-X, AEMWE & rSOC Demonstrator

17:00
onwards

FREE EVENING

Free evening

WEDNESDAY
02 SEPTEMBER

Hydropower & Pumped Storage
Grande Dixence & EPFL Sion

08:50
17:00

EXCURSION

Grande Dixence Dam: Guided Visit and inside view

Bus departs from Sion at 9:06 · lunch included. The tallest gravity dam in the world.

17:15
19:30

POSTER APERO

Poster Session — All Participants Present Their Research

PhD and postdoc posters, plus an aperitif. A relaxed setting for networking and sharing ideas.

19:30
onwards

FREE EVENING

Free evening

THURSDAY
03 SEPTEMBER

Thermal & Chemical Storage
EPFL Lausanne Campus

07:39
09:09

TRAVEL

Train: Sion → EPFL Lausanne Campus

09:30
10:30

LECTURE 6

GRZ Swiss Company: Metal Hydrides Hydrogen Solutions: Research and Applications

Dr. Tai Sun — GRZ Technologies

10:45
11:45

LECTURE 7

Thermal Energy Storage: Principles & Technologies

Prof. Philipp Schütz — HSLU Lucern

12:00 – 13:00 · Lunch break

13:00
14:15

LECTURE 8 LAB VISIT 2

Power-to-X: Solar Fuels & Chemical Storage Pathways + LRESE Lab Visit

Prof. Sophia Haussener — EPFL

14:30
16:30

LECTURE 9 LAB VISIT 3

Seeing the Grid in Real Time: Monitoring & Control + DESL Lab Visit

Prof. Mario Paolone — EPFL

16:47
23:12

DINNER

CGN Boat to Le Bouveret + Dinner by the Lake + Return trip to Sion

From 16:47 to 17:22, a train runs from EPFL Lausanne Campus to Vevey.
At 18:00 there is a CGN boat trip from Vevey to Le Bouveret, arriving at 18:50.
Dinner follows by the lake in Le Bouveret from 20:00 to 22:00.
Train back to Sion from Le Bouveret from 22:00 to 23:12.

FRIDAY
04 SEPTEMBER

Future Perspectives
EPFL Valais · Wallis, Sion

08:45
10:15

LAB VISIT 4

Hydropower Lab: Pumped Hydro and Beyond
Prof. Cécile Münch-Alligné — Hydro Alps Lab at HES-SO Valais–Wallis

10:30
11:30

LECTURE 10 · CONCLUSION

Future Perspectives on Energy Storage
Prof. Jan Van Herle — EPFL

12:00 – 13:30 · Farewell lunch

SPEAKERS

Academics & industry, in order of appearance

MON 31 Aug **15:30**	**Prof. Emeritus Alfred Rufer** Energy on Demand — Why Storage Is Central	**EPFL**
TUE 01 Sep **08:30**	**Prof. Antoni Forner Cuenca** Large-scale Redox Flow Batteries	**TU/e**
TUE 01 Sep **09:45**	**Prof. Priscilla Caliandro** Batteries Fundamentals & E-Mobility	**BFH**
TUE 01 Sep **11:00**	**Dr. Roland Gallay** Supercapacitors Challenge Batteries	**Garmanage**
TUE 01 Sep **14:45**	**Prof. Fabrizio Sossan** Storage as a Grid Service	**HES-SO**
THU 03 Sep **09:30**	**Dr. Tai Sun** Hydride Storage, Fuel Cells & Electrolyzers	**GRZ**
THU 03 Sep **10:45**	**Prof. Philipp Schütz** Thermal Energy Storage	**HSLU**
THU 03 Sep **13:00**	**Prof. Sophia Haussener** Power-to-X & Solar Fuels	**EPFL · LRESE**
THU 03 Sep **14:30**	**Prof. Mario Paolone** Real-Time Grid Monitoring & Control	**EPFL · DESL**
FRI 04 Sep **08:45**	**Prof. Cécile Münch-Alligné** Hydropower & Pumped Hydro	**HES-SO**
FRI 04 Sep **10:30**	**Prof. Jan Van Herle** Future Perspectives on Energy Storage	**EPFL · GEM**

TRAVEL

Getting to Sion

ARRIVAL

The school opens on the afternoon of **Monday 31 August** , first lecture at **15:30,** leaving the morning to travel and check in. Lunch on arrival day is not included.

DEPARTURE

The school concludes on **Friday 4 September** ; a farewell lunch runs until **13:30** , after which participants are free to depart. Book return travel from Friday afternoon onwards.

Train connections to Sion from Geneva and Zürich airports — EPFL Valais · Wallis, Sion.

FROM GENEVA AIRPORT

Genève-Aéroport → Sion

Journey	**≈ 2h05**
2nd class	**from CHF 56**
1st class	**from CHF 96**

Direct · no change

FROM ZURICH AIRPORT

Zürich Flughafen → Sion

Journey	**2h50–4h00**
2nd class	**from CHF 105**
1st class	**from CHF 170**

1 change · via Berne–Visp or Lausanne

Tip: Swiss tickets are date-specific, point-to-point fares. Book ahead on **sbb.ch**: the discounted **Super Saver** fare is tied to a specific train and limited in number. No seat reservation is needed on standard intercity journeys. ECTS credits are awarded only to participants who attend the full Summer School.

LOCATIONS & OTHER PRACTICAL INFO

DAILY MEETING POINTS

Where and when to meet each day

MON 31 Aug	**i17** - Rue de l'Industrie 17, 1951 Sion	**15:15**
TUE 01 Sep	**Alpole -** Rte des Ronquos 86, 1950 Sion	**08:15**
WED 02 Sep	**Sion train station** - Place de la Gare 1, 1950 Sion	**08:45**
THU 03 Sep	**Sion train station** - Place de la Gare 1, 1950 Sion	**07:25**
FRI 04 Sep	**Alpole -** Rte des Ronquos 86, 1950 Sion	**08:30**

REGISTRATION FEE

EuroTech partners	**100 CHF**
Other institutions	**200 CHF**
ECTS credits	**On request**

ACCOMMODATION

HI Sion (Holiday Inn) ≈ 3 min walk.
reservation@hiexsion.ch
140 CHF/night EPFL RATE with code `EPFL_EUROTECH26`

Alaia Hostel ≈ 2 min walk · alaia.ch/hostel

Other hotels: **IBIS**, **Moxy**, and **Hotel Castel**

WIFI INFO

WiFi: EPFL

User: summerschool

Password: Eurotech#2026

Questions? eurotech2026@epfl.ch

SAFETY
HYGIENE & SECURITY

Hygiene and safety rules at work
EPFL Valais Wallis, Sion – applies in all building and laboratories

Prohibition


No entry for unauthorized persons


Open flame prohibited


Do not extinguish with water

Obligations


Mandatory lab coat


Mandatory work suit


Mandatory eye protection

Warning


Biological hazard


Corrosive material


Flammable material


Eating is not allowed in classrooms and laboratories, it is only allowed in the places intended for that purpose.

Building security


The access badge is personal and non-transferable. Do not open doors to anyone who does not have the rights to enter


Filming and taking pictures is prohibited unless authorized by Mediacom

Do not disable security systems


The site is under video surveillance

Assistance or emergency

24 / 24 · 7 / 7

EPFL LANDLINE	PERSONAL PHONE	EPFL CAMPUS APP
115	021 693 30 00	SOS

Outside EPFL: Police 117 · Fire services 118 · Ambulance 144

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Fire, first aid and evacuation
Alarm: 115 (EPFL landline) · 021 693 30 00 · SOS in the EPFL Campus app

Fire procedure

Raise the alarm
Fire alarm · 021 693 30 00 or 115 (landline) or SOS on the EPFL Campus app

Leave the area
Close the doors and windows · assist with evacuation · follow the signs for the escape routes

Fight fire
Use the available extinguishing means · act without putting yourself at risk

Guide and inform
Inform the first rescue services (people to be rescued, hazardous materials)

First aid procedure

Raise the alarm
021 693 30 00 or 115 (landline) or SOS on the EPFL Campus app

Ensure safety
Keep yourself safe · keep the victim safe · secure the area

Provide first aid
Give the care you are trained for and reassure the victim

Guide and inform
Inform the rescue services on arrival

Evacuation procedure

When the siren resounds, leave the building without delay

Follow the signage · take your belongings with you

Don't turn back

Proceed to the assembly point: the parking lot in front of each building

Fire prevention rules

In addition for your safety, we request you to behave in a responsible manner and respect the following points:

- Keep escape routes clear of clutter
- Dispose of cardboard and other packaging as you go
- Do not block fire doors
- Know the nearest emergency exit and how to use an extinguisher