

## **GESDA Summit 2025 Opens at CERN: Science, Sovereignty, and a Shared Future in Focus**

*Geneva, Switzerland, 15/10/2025*

The Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipation (GESDA) Summit, the world's leading platform positioning science and its anticipation as solutions to the challenges of a destabilised world, opened today at CERN for its fifth edition, bringing together over 1,000 participants from diplomacy, science, business, and civil society for dialogue on how to navigate an era of disruptive innovation and geopolitical strain.

Taking place from October 15 to 17, this year's theme, "The Age of Possibilities: Science, Sovereignty, and a Shared Future," underscores the urgent need for international collaboration to manage breakthroughs in quantum computing, neurotechnology, artificial intelligence, synthetic biology, and climate engineering.

At the heart of the event is the unveiling of the 2026 edition of the GESDA Science Breakthrough Radar®, an anticipation tool mapping scientific advances over 5, 10, and 25-year horizons. Built on insights from more than 2,300 leading scientists, the Radar provides a rigorous foundation for evidence-based decision-making and anticipatory governance. (See the Radar press release for detailed highlights).

### **Spotlight on Brain-Computer Interfaces : Equity and Innovation at the Forefront**

One of the standout moments of this year's GESDA Summit will take place on Friday morning, during a session dedicated to the future of brain-computer interfaces (BCIs). This session, which will conclude with an announcement by GESDA Vice-President Patrick Aebischer, aims to draw attention to the urgent need for global coordination around these rapidly evolving technologies.

BCIs are emerging as transformative tools — offering new hope for individuals with conditions such as ALS and spinal cord injuries, while also opening new frontiers in cognitive enhancement. However as the technology accelerates, so do critical questions around access, ethics, and governance.

Neurotechnologies could also enhance human cognition and transform the way we interact. Several companies are already marketing non-invasive devices for use in workplaces, education, and entertainment, with the market growing rapidly. The GESDA Science Breakthrough Radar anticipates that brain stimulation wearables could become mainstream within five years.

Friday's session will also explore how to ensure equitable access to these technologies, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, while setting ethical standards and engaging the public.

GESDA is not doing this alone, this is a global endeavour supported by partners such as Defitech, WHO Foundation, Wyss Center, Qatar Foundation, OECD, EPFL, Geneva University (HUG) and many others. This alliance has set itself the goal of ensuring that advances in neurotechnology benefit the greatest number of people, not just a minority.

## High-Level Participation

The 2025 GESDA Summit features a distinguished roster of speakers, including:

- Ignazio Cassis, Swiss Federal Councillor and Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
- Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva
- Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union
- Sylvie Briand, Chief Scientist, World Health Organization
- Anna Koivuniemi, Head of Impact Accelerator, Google DeepMind
- Magdalena Skipper, GESDA Board Member and Editor-in-Chief, *Nature*

Ministerial-level representatives are also attending, such as:

- Sabine Monauni, Deputy Prime Minister of Liechtenstein
- Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India

## Expanding Anticipatory Science Global Reach

The 2025 Summit takes place against the backdrop of GESDA's growing international presence. This past year, the foundation was invited to present its anticipatory model to G20 science ministers in Pretoria, advanced a landmark UN Human Rights Council resolution on neurotechnologies and human rights, and captured public imagination at the Osaka World Expo, where more than 800,000 visitors experienced its interactive *Public Portal for Anticipation*.

The Portal will now “move” to Hong Kong in December 2025 as part of Switzerland's 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations with China, before expanding worldwide in partnership with EPFL.

## Media support

The discussions during the summit in Geneva will be amplified by media coverage. Léman Bleu television will air a primetime post-event special; Swissinfo will run a dedicated blog, *Geneva 2035: Science Anticipation and the Future of International Geneva*; and global media figures will play central roles in the programme. In addition to the participation of Magdalena Skipper already mentioned above, the Financial Times Zurich correspondent will moderate key panels on science and diplomacy, while The Economist's Science & Technology Editor will chair high-level sessions on multilateralism and the future of research.

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### About GESDA

The Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA) is an independent Swiss foundation that connects scientific anticipation with global diplomacy. Its mission is to anticipate emerging scientific breakthroughs and help translate them into inclusive, ethical, and cooperative solutions to global challenges.

### Media Contact

For more information or interviews with GESDA leadership and scientists, please contact

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Please also visit the websites for the Radar at <https://radar.gesda.global/> and for GESDA at <https://gesda.global>.