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Succession of the Directorate of the SwissOGS in Zimmerwald

Dear friends and colleagues

This document is to inform you of the succession of the Director of the Swiss Optical Ground Station and Geodynamics Observatory (SwissOGS) in Zimmerwald. The following events took place since 2022:

- Since July 18, 2022, the SwissOGS has been jointly led by Prof. Dr. Thomas Schildknecht (Director) and Prof. Dr. Lucia Kleint (Vice-Director) in preparation for Thomas Schildknecht's retirement in September 2025.
- On February 1, 2024, Lucia Kleint became Associate Professor (Extraordinaria) of the Phil.-nat.-Faculty of the University of Bern.
- On February 1, 2025, following discussions with the executive board of the University and the management of the Astronomical Institute, Thomas Schildknecht will step down as Director after 15 years and Lucia Kleint will become the new Director of the SwissOGS.

Lucia Kleint received her Ph.D. degree in 2010 from ETH Zürich. She subsequently worked at the National Center for Atmospheric Research and at the Lockheed Martin Solar and Astrophysics lab (USA) until 2014, when she returned to Europe to work on ESA's Solar Orbiter mission. From 2017, she headed Europe's largest solar telescope and later the whole German Solar Observatory on Tenerife. In 2020, she was awarded a PRIMA grant, with which she became an assistant professor at the Department of Computer Science at the University of Geneva. Her current research group at the University of Bern, consisting of 10 members and funded by third-party sources including an ERC grant, focuses on astronomical instrumentation, machine learning, and the physics of Space Weather.

Running projects at the SwissOGS, such as satellite laser ranging (SLR) performed in the frame of the International Laser Ranging Service (ILRS), will continue. A new kHz laser is being set up and verified. Synergies in research areas will lead to joint investigations of the effects of Space Weather on satellite

orbits, to new astronomical instrumentation in Zimmerwald, and cross-disciplinary image reconstruction methods will for example allow us to observe satellites in high resolution, thus continuing AIUB's contribution to the Space Safety programs.

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