



PRESS RELEASE

EPHJ 2026 opens in Geneva with its unprecedented Watchmaking G7

Switzerland's leading professional trade fair brings together nearly 800 exhibitors from 18 countries this year. Despite a still challenging market environment, EPHJ is fully booked and confirms its strategic role for the watchmaking and jewellery industries, microtechnology, medtech and the entire Swiss and international high-precision ecosystem. The opening day is marked by the visit of the President of the Swiss Confederation, Guy Parmelin, and the organisation of the first G7 gathering the major watchmaking nations.

Geneva, 16 June 2026 – EPHJ opened the doors of its 24th edition today at Palexpo Geneva, welcoming the President of the Swiss Confederation, Guy Parmelin, for an official visit marked by numerous exchanges on various stands. From 16 to 19 June, Switzerland's leading professional trade fair will welcome all players in the high-precision sector, with nearly 800 exhibiting companies and more than 20,000 professional visitors expected. These figures are similar to those of the 2025 edition.

Among the 18 exhibiting countries represented, Switzerland remains by far the largest contributor, accounting for 78% of the total. International participation is particularly strong from France, with 83 companies, followed by Germany with 33 exhibitors and Italy with 24 exhibitors. China and Japan are also represented.

The most represented Swiss cantons reflect the historic roots of the fair in the Jura Arc and in the country's major industrial centres. Neuchâtel leads the ranking with 132 exhibitors, followed by Bern with 102, Jura with 87, Vaud with 84, Geneva with 78 and Fribourg with 18. Together, the cantons of Neuchâtel, Bern, Jura, Vaud, Geneva, Fribourg and Valais account for 410 exhibitors, representing more than half of all Swiss companies present.

EPHJ 2026 also welcomes 99 new exhibitors, a sign of constant renewal and of the continued strong interest shown by companies in this unique platform for visibility, professional networking and business development.

An increasingly diversified high-precision industry

While watchmaking and jewellery remain the historic foundation of EPHJ, with 89% of companies declaring activity in this field, the diversification of companies taking part in the trade fair is clearly confirmed. Microtechnology now involves 455 exhibitors, representing more than 59% of the total, while medtech accounts for 431 companies, or more than 55% of exhibitors, taking multi-sector activities into consideration. The trade fair supports them in this strategy.

This cross-sector dimension lies at the heart of EPHJ's identity. The same expertise – miniaturisation, precision machining, surface treatment, automation, quality control, advanced materials, connectivity, robotics and photonics – now serves several demanding markets: watchmaking, jewellery, medical, aerospace, defence, electronics, personalised healthcare and cutting-edge industrial technologies.

More than ever, EPHJ demonstrates that high precision is not a closed sector, but a platform of skills capable of meeting the needs of industries undergoing profound transformation.

The Global Watchmaking G7 opens the event

This edition opens in an exceptional international context, in parallel with the G7 Summit in Évian. Echoing this global event, EPHJ has taken the initiative to organise the **Global Watchmaking G7** on Tuesday 16 June at 2:00 pm: the first meeting in Geneva bringing together the major watchmaking nations to discuss the future challenges of the sector, market developments, competitiveness, industrial transformations, the transmission of know-how, subcontracting and the role of watchmaking in a changing global environment.

Six nominees for the 2026 Exhibitors' Grand Prix

Another highlight of this edition, and central to the very purpose of the trade fair, is the **EPHJ 2026 Exhibitors' Grand Prix**. It will showcase six innovations selected for their potential, originality and contribution to the future of high precision. The six 2026 nominees are **Ciposa, IotaMetrix, Krystalix, MPS, Louis Bélet and NanoVoxel**. The winner will be announced this evening following the exhibitors' vote.

Round tables at the heart of major industrial challenges

EPHJ 2026 will also offer a particularly rich programme of round tables, directly addressing the transformations shaping the high-precision industry.

Artificial intelligence will be explored from the perspective of concrete applications in the workshop: production, quality, maintenance, support, industrial management, capitalisation of know-how, as well as Shadow AI, data confidentiality and cybersecurity.

The **Innovation Forum** will highlight the six Grand Prix innovations and emerging trends in additive manufacturing, with applications in luxury, precious metals, personalisation, material reduction and customised medical devices.

The round table dedicated to **Digitalised Man** will explore how wearables, advanced sensors and AI are transforming personalised healthcare, clinical practice and our relationship with the body, at the crossroads of watchmaking, medtech and neurotechnologies.

Swiss microtechnology will also be the focus of a forward-looking debate around the question: **“Swiss microtechnology tradition – quo vadis?”** Proposed by Swissphotonics, this session will examine the future of micromechanical expertise, precision workshops and highly specialised companies in the face of automation, succession, innovation and competitiveness challenges.

Issues relating to precious metals, responsibility, traceability, quality and the new standards expected by markets will also be central to the discussions on 18 June, as will the development of new opportunities in healthcare, photonics and advanced industrial technologies.

Finally, on Friday 19 June, a round table dedicated to employment will take stock of the labour market in high-precision industries, in light of economic tensions, short-time working, sectoral changes, training needs, the evolution of sought-after profiles and the impact of AI on recruitment and skills.

A fully accessible trade fair

Despite the mobility constraints linked to the G7 Summit in Évian, EPHJ 2026 is taking place as planned at Palexpo Geneva. The trade fair reminds visitors that the borders are not closed, that road access to Palexpo is guaranteed, that public transport continues to operate and that visitors are invited to plan their journeys in advance by consulting the official information provided by the State of Geneva.

EPHJ 2026

16 to 19 June 2026

Palexpo Geneva

www.ephj.ch

Media contact

Stephan Post

079 702 00 40

spo@dynamicsgroup.ch