

SCIENCE SATURDAY

Swiss polytechnic hosts international physics competition

APR 20, 2019 - 15:21



The EPFL team: Ruslan Mushkaev, Ivan Rijkov, Nicholas Greensmith, Vincent Masson and Maxime Scheder

(Alain Herzog / 2019 EPFL)

More than 200 physics students are gathering at [EPFL](#), Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL) for the 2019 [International Physicists' Tournament \(IPT\)](#).

This a record year in terms of participation, with 19 teams from 16 countries competing. The teams will try to answer questions like, "Is it possible to estimate how far away a train is, and how fast it's travelling, merely from the sound it makes as it approaches?" and "How can the structure of a samara – the helicopter-like fruit that grows on certain trees – inspire more efficient parachute design?"

EPFL won the gold medal last year, so it's defending its title. But the six-day event – which runs from April 21-26 – is also an opportunity for networking.

“Once the qualifying stages are over, you often see teams discussing how physics is taught in their country,” says coordinator Evgenii Glushkov, a PhD student in the EPFL laboratory of nanoscale biology. “Competing for the medals is only part of what the IPT is about. We all head home having learned something – and met lots of new people along the way.”

The public can watch the presentations throughout the week, and the final, which will take place at the Rolex Learning Center Forum on April 26, will be broadcast live. [Click here](#) for the full schedule.

This is an iframe content

00:00 / 00:34

SWI

HIGHER ED

EPFL marks 50 years of scientific progress

Over the past five decades, the Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL) has been the home of many scientific discoveries.

swissinfo.ch/sm

SWI

SWI swissinfo.ch, a branch of the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation

SRG SSR

