

The era of QUANTUM

THE REVOLUTION IS UNDERWAY

WHAT LIES AHEAD**A BRIEF HISTORY**

Old principles, new hopes

B THE APPLICATIONS

A very wide scope, but one that has still to be created.

C SKILLS

Becoming a quantum professional

D A GLOBAL COMPETITION

The business of quantum

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QUANTUM PHYSICS IS EMERGING FROM THE LABORATORIES

SWITZERLAND MUST POSITION

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Each year brings its share of new concepts (buzzwords), which are more or less relevant, that will have an impact on the news, and that, without us realising it, gradually invade our daily lives. These words are not banal. They reflect hopes, our foremost concerns, the world in the making, and forge the one in which we will soon live. One that we cannot ignore is that of the

QUANTUM TECHNOLOGIES
FROM CRYPTOGRAPHY TO COMPUTING
VIA THE SENSORY.

This new world is not really new. It was born at the beginning of the 20th century, when quantum physics brought us many innovations, such as transistors, computers, mobile phones, MRIs, lasers and LEDs. Since then, we have entered the second quantum revolution. Its promises have caused a sharp acceleration in recent years, leading to a global race for quantum advantage*. Among the most discussed applications, there is a new generation of computers that promises to solve much more complex calculations than with current super-systems. This would make it possible to optimise the entire supply chain in real time, target a protein for a drug specific to each patient or simulate the entire functioning of the brain.

Today, these technologies are emerging from the laboratories, and they are demonstrating their first industrial successes. In Geneva, the work of Professor Nicolas Gisin's group in the field of quantum cryptography gave birth to a pioneer, which has become one of the world leaders in its field. ID Quantique has been marketing recognised tamper-proof encryption systems for twenty years, and now also random number generators and quantum sensors that are capable of measuring light to the pixel or photon.

This example illustrates the fact that, through its cutting-edge research and successful technology transfers, Switzerland has an excellent card to play in these emerging technologies that, according to BCG in 2020 and 2021, attracted more than two billion in private funds, double all that had been invested in it in the previous decade. To these amounts, government support must be added, which is particularly significant in the case of China, Japan, India, Canada and the US (Fig. 1). As for the future markets that are opening up to these products, BCG estimates them at between 450 and 850 billion in the next 15 to 30 years (Fig. 2).

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A WHAT IS QUANTUM, OR THE SECOND QUANTUM REVOLUTION?THE MEETING OF
MATTER AND
LIGHT

A BRIEF HISTORY OF QUANTUM

The advent of quantum came about in two stages. We usually talk about the two quantum revolutions, referring to two periods of major transformations in the field of quantum physics.

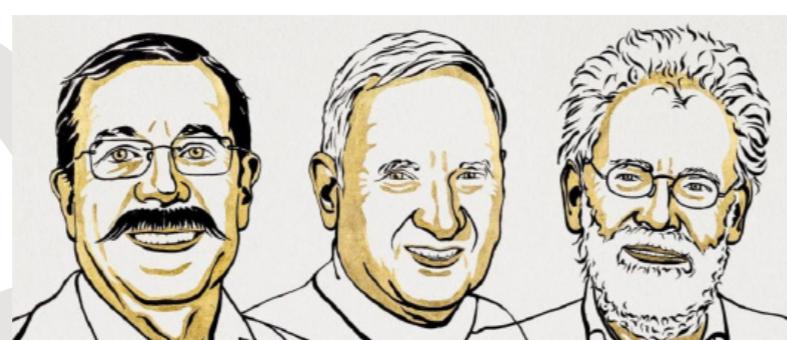
First Quantum Revolution

The First Quantum Revolution took place in the early 20th century with the pioneering work of Max Planck (recognised as the father of quantum physics), Albert Einstein, Niels Bohr, Werner Heisenberg, Erwin Schrödinger, and others. It shook our vision of the world, introduced surprising concepts such as wave-particle duality, and gave birth to quantum mechanics, a new theory that revolutionised our understanding of nature at the microscopic scale. This period led to major inventions such as the transistor, the laser, and integrated circuits of computers.

Second quantum revolution

Less known is the development of a second quantum revolution, initiated in 1955 by the debate between Albert Einstein and Niels Bohr about the radical implications of quantum mechanics, notably the idea that reality was intrinsically probabilistic and that the measurement of one quantum property could instantly influence another, even at a great distance (the phenomenon of quantum entanglement). To decide, it would be necessary to wait until the early 1980s, when Alain Aspect carried out in Orsay the experiment that would offer proof of the existence of entanglement. Bohr was therefore right, but by revealing a fundamental aspect of quantum physics, Einstein was not wrong!

It is this revolution, which is still unfolding before our eyes, that has brought us new concrete applications, particularly in the field of cryptography. It is at the heart of new technologies, such as quantum computing.

SCIENCE

3 Nobels for real hopes

On 4 October 2022, the Nobel Prize for Physics rewarded three pioneers of this second quantum revolution: the Austrian Anton Zeilinger, the American John Clauser and the Frenchman Alain Aspect, for their "experiments with intricate photons paving the way for quantum information science".

QUANTUM COMPUTING
IN 10 LINES

Quantum computing relies on the principles of quantum mechanics to perform calculations. Unlike conventional computing, which uses bits to represent 0 or 1, quantum computing uses qubits that can exist in several states simultaneously through superposition. These qubits can also be entangled, meaning that the state of one may depend on the state of the other, even if they are separated.

Quantum computing offers considerable potential for solving complex problems, such as large-number factorisation, molecular simulation and optimisation. However, it also poses challenges in terms of qubit stability and quantum error handling. Companies and countries around the world are investing in quantum research to harness the full potential of this emerging technology – but right now the quantum processor is still at the exploratory stage; it takes up a lot of space, must be cooled to cryogenic temperatures, and requires a very high vacuum and sophisticated optics to control the qubits.

Welcome
TO THE WORLD OF QUANTUM
**THE NEW NOW
QUANTUM**

We are only at the beginning of quantum history, but we must follow it. All sectors of the economy are concerned, and in a few years, industrialists who will not have a quantum strategy may miss the turn. We must ensure a concerted effort, both in terms of understanding the issues, raising awareness of the political and economic world and societal impacts, and ensure that we do not suffer from a shortage of talent to implement the new tools that will be made possible. As many issues as those addressed by this document on quantum in Switzerland.

quantum.inartis.ch

B MAIN AREAS OF APPLICATION

COMPUTERS, COMMUNICATIONS AND SENSORY TOPICS

1 QUANTUM COMPUTING

Quantum Computing (QC) is a new computing technology that relies on the laws of quantum mechanics to exponentially improve the performance of certain applications and potentially allow the emergence of entirely new computing territories. Quantum simulation, is sometimes referred to as special-purpose quantum computing.

3 QUANTUM SENSING

Quantum sensing (QS) is the new generation of sensors built from quantum systems. It could provide measurements of various quantities (for example, gravity, time, electromagnetism) that are orders of magnitude more sensitive than conventional sensors.

C TRAINING TO APPROACH THE QUANTUM FIELD

5 SKILLS THAT ARE NECESSARY TO START A CAREER IN QUANTUM COMPUTING

- Curiosity - It may sound cheesy, but it's the first and most important quality you must possess. It's not technically something you can obtain. It is nevertheless crucial!
- Basics of Electronics - Quantum is, after all, a computing domain, and it has three main layers: algorithmic, software, and hardware. You will likely end up specialising in one of these areas.
- Linear Algebra and Probability Theory - Mathematics is also an essential element, especially linear algebra and probability theory.
- Basic programming - In order to facilitate the transition to quantum computing, programming languages are often conventional. Python being one of the most widely used.
- Understanding of physics - In the case of conventional computing, it is no longer necessary to know exactly how the hardware works in order to create with it. Most of the time you just need to know how to use it. This is not the case for quantum computing! To be a quantum software programmer, you need to know how a quantum computer works, and then use that knowledge to create your applications, which will require you to understand some physics and the mechanics of how quantum algorithms work.

D BETWEEN COMPETITION AND COOPERATION, EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ARE ADVANCING WHEN IT COMES TO QUANTUM TECHNOLOGIES

MANY COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD RECOGNISE THE IMPORTANCE OF QUANTUM COMPUTING AND QUANTUM TECHNOLOGIES, AND ARE INVESTING HEAVILY IN THE RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS EMERGING TECHNOLOGY.

United States: The United States is at the forefront of quantum research, with substantial investments from the federal government, individual states, and the private sector. Initiatives such as the National Quantum Initiative Act aim to accelerate the development of quantum computing in the United States.

Canada: Canada is committed to quantum research with investments from both government and the private sector. Research centres and startups are working on various aspects of quantum computing.

Japan: Japan has also stepped up its efforts in quantum research. Japanese research institutions and companies are investing in the development of quantum technologies.

Australia: Australia has positioned itself as a major player in quantum research. Initiatives such as the Centre for Quantum Computation and Communication Technology have received significant financial support.

European Union: The EU has launched the Quantum Flagship programme, a €1 billion initiative to boost quantum research and innovation. Several EU member states, such as Germany, France and the Netherlands, are also making significant investments.

China: China has stepped up its investments in quantum, recognising its transformational potential. It is conducting extensive research, investing in quantum technology companies and aiming to become a world leader in quantum computing.

United Kingdom: The UK has launched the Quantum Technologies Programme, aimed at accelerating the development of quantum technology. Investments have been made in research, education and the development of the quantum industry.

Singapore: Singapore is investing in quantum research and development to strengthen its position as a leading technology hub in Asia. International collaborations are also encouraged.

the new now
QUANTUM

WELCOME TO THE QUANTUM AGE

CONNECT PEOPLE IN THE QUANTUM FIELD AND BEYOND, PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN, COLLABORATE, AND ACHIEVE MORE TOGETHER.

PROMOTE THE ADOPTION AND BENEFITS OF QUANTUM TECHNOLOGIES ACROSS THE SWISS ECONOMY

CULTIVATE A VIBRANT DOMESTIC QUANTUM ECOSYSTEM TO PROPEL INNOVATION AND MAINTAIN A COMPETITIVE EDGE

QUANTUM IN SWITZERLAND

ENTER THE WORLD OF QUANTUM TODAY. HOW?

While the scientific community is not unanimous on the degree of maturity of quantum computing and other related technologies, everyone agrees that a technological revolution is underway, and the technological opportunities to get a foothold in the new world of quantum computing exist. They fall into two broad categories:

- IV. The first is that of machines exploiting quantum technologies per se, such as cold atoms, ion traps, superconducting loops, photon polarisation, etc. Although computers based on these quantum phenomena are currently only capable of running a limited number of qubits, they are nonetheless capable of running quantum algorithms, and so we can already start developing prototypes of concepts for real-life use cases. Some applications could therefore see the light of day on this type of machine before 2030.
- V. The other category of machine that can be used today is familiar to anyone with the implementation of quantum computing, namely emulators, which "simulate" the operation of a quantum computer on a conventional machine. The problem is that emulating a qubit in this way requires considerable computing power. And the need for computing power will grow exponentially with the emulation of additional power qubits... In short, even if these two categories of machines are only foreseen to do what they are able to do, they already allow us to prefigure their operation on a technology that will soon occupy a predominant place. It's like the skiers training on artificial slopes, waiting for the racing season to open. Each field of use has its own players.
- When it comes to quantum computing, there are:
 - Developers of software solutions, designing quantum algorithms, enabling the implementation of such applications.
 - Vertical users, and application developers using the new technologies offered by quantum computing.
 - The industrial community, which has the industrial know-how to develop enabling technologies, and which could position Switzerland as an industrial player in the supply chain of these future machines. The challenge for these companies lies in their ability to develop concrete solutions in the vast field opened up by quantum computing, a real opportunity that SATW, Swissengineering and Swissmem players often aim to highlight.

ZURICH INSTRUMENTS

is a leading global manufacturer of quantum computing control systems. They provide state-of-the-art laboratory equipment including lock-in amplifiers, waveform generators, and impedance analysers.

<http://www.zurich.com>

Alpes Laser

Base Precision Instruments

Basel Quantum Center

CERN Quantum Technology Initiative

Constructor

CSEM

Enlightra

EPFL

E Hoffmann-La Roche AG

Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz

Federal Institute of Metrology

Geneva Quantum Centre (GQC)

GESDA

Google Switzerland

Hannamatsu Photonics

Hochschule Luzern (HSLU)

IBM Research

ID Quantique SA

Imosuisse

International Telecom Union (ITU)

IonQ

ION+ARVEL

NCCR Nanoscience

NCCR SpinQubits in Silicon

NCCR SwissMAP

Lakestar Advisors GmbH

Ligentec

McKinsey & Company

Mirax SA

Novartis AG

Open Quantum Initiative

Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI)

Polariton Technologies AG

QAI Ventures

Quantum Analytics

QNAMAG

QSE Center for Quantum Sci. & Eng.

QuantumBase

QuantumFutureX

Quantum Center (QC)

Quantum Engineering Commission

Quantum Science and Engineering

Qzabre

Röchling

SATW (Swiss Acad. of Eng. Sciences)

SCNAT (Swiss Academy of Sciences)

ETHZ

Swiss Innovation Forum (SIF)

Swiss Quantum Commission (SQC)

Swiss Startup Association

Swiss Tech Transfer Asso (SwTT)

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