Keeping an eye on the LHC

Access management at CERN has been revamped, with new optical recognition access control systems for the LHC, new electronic chip access cards and a new Cards Service in Building 55. The Users’ Office therefore no longer produces Access cards (as of Monday) and the equipment has been removed.

The new biometric access control system resembles a big biometric reader. It will be used to access the LHC.
New chip cards

New electronic chip cards bearing more information and easier to use than their predecessors will gradually be introduced. By simply passing them in front of the card reader you will be able to open the door without even removing them from their cover. The CERN Control Centre (CCC) on the Prévessin site is already fitted out with an access system using this type of card. The dosimeters are to be equipped with similar electronic chips and will thus also serve as access cards. They will be used at the LHC initially, but the principle will subsequently be extended to the other CERN accelerators.

The new CERN card features a host of technologies. It still has a magnetic strip but is also equipped with an electronic RFID (RadioFrequency IDentification) chip. 'The magnetic strip on CERN cards will soon be a thing of the past'. Thanks to the chips, there will no longer be any need for contact between the card and the reader, which will avoid wear and tear. It will also extend the lifetime of the cards, which are currently valid for 5 years after their issue date.

USER/UPAS access cards will therefore no longer have the same validity period as their CERN contract.

It is important to remember that carrying a card does not mean that you have access to all parts of the CERN site. To obtain access to specific areas, the relevant authorisations must be applied for via EDH and safety courses must be validated.
The card readers at the access points to the various CERN sites will be gradually replaced, as will users' cards as and when necessary. As of 1st September, persons working at Points 7 and 8 will be issued with new access cards at the Points in question.

To find out if your card uses the new technology, all you need to do is check whether it bears a small capital 'M' on the front.

To facilitate the implementation of all these innovations, Building 55 has been refurbished and re-opened its doors last week. Housing all access and safety services under one roof from September onwards, it will later include a new helpdesk service providing users with the necessary support. **Note that the Dosimetry service has not yet transferred from building 24.**
The card, which contains many different pieces of information, will become increasingly necessary in everyday life. As well as allowing access, it will be used in the library and, in the future, thanks to a second chip that is currently optional and undergoing testing, for connecting up to computers. One day it could even be used to pay for food and drinks in the restaurant as the technology featured would allow this.

Problems encountered this week:

- No photos transferred from old to new system -&gt; can’t renew access without User being present
- Family cards can’t be produced yet