



PRESS RELEASE

EPHJ 2026 stays the course with 20,000 visitors despite the constraints of the G7 Summit in Évian

EPHJ, the international high-precision trade fair, closed the doors of its 24th edition at Palexpo Geneva in an exceptional context marked by the mobility restrictions linked to the G7 Summit in Évian. Although attendance was affected, the trade fair nevertheless reached the milestone of 20,000 professional visitors and confirmed its central role for the watchmaking and jewellery industries, microtechnology, medtech and the entire high-precision ecosystem.

Geneva, 19 June 2026 – EPHJ 2026 closed its doors this Friday at Palexpo Geneva after an edition that was far from ordinary. Held in parallel with the G7 Summit in Évian, the trade fair had to deal with an unusual logistical environment, marked by traffic restrictions, reinforced checks and mobility uncertainties, particularly during the first days of the event.

In this context, attendance was impacted compared with the best recent editions. Nevertheless, EPHJ stayed the course, reaching the symbolic threshold of **20,000 professional visitors**, with a frequently highly qualified audience and exhibitors who, for the most part, underlined the quality of the exchanges, the relevance of the contacts and the strength of the business relationships established or reinforced over the four days.

“EPHJ 2026 required a special effort from everyone involved. We know that the constraints linked to the G7 Summit may have made it more difficult for some visitors to attend and may have had an impact on the activity of several exhibitors. But I would like to sincerely thank our exhibitors, visitors, partners and all the teams who were present despite this exceptional context. Their commitment enabled EPHJ to remain true to its mission: to be the major meeting place for high precision, know-how, useful innovation and professional exchanges,” said **Alexandre Catton, Director of EPHJ.**

This 24th edition was also marked by several major highlights. From the opening, the official visit of the President of the Swiss Confederation, **Guy Parmelin**, accompanied by **Delphine Bachmann**, State Councillor in charge of Economy, Employment and Energy, sent a strong

signal of recognition to the high-precision industries. This presence was particularly appreciated by exhibitors in a demanding economic environment.

Another unprecedented moment was the organisation of the first **Global Watchmaking G7**, which brought together in Geneva representatives of several major watchmaking nations. This meeting opened an international debate on the future of the sector, market developments, competitiveness, the transmission of know-how, subcontracting and the role of watchmaking in a changing global environment.

Innovation also played a central role throughout the trade fair. The **EPHJ 2026 Exhibitors' Grand Prix** was awarded to **Louis Bélet SA** for its internally lubricated PCD drills, a useful and immediately applicable innovation that pushes the limits of precision drilling in difficult-to-machine materials. The six nominees for the Grand Prix illustrated the ability of high-precision suppliers to turn their customers' industrial constraints into concrete solutions.

The round tables also confirmed the richness of the challenges facing the sector: artificial intelligence in the workshop, additive manufacturing, the digitalised human being, Swiss microtechnology, precious metals, responsibility, traceability, employment and training. These topics show that high precision is not only an industrial sector, but also a platform of skills serving several markets undergoing transformation.

With nearly **800 exhibitors** from **18 countries**, EPHJ 2026 demonstrated the resilience of an ecosystem capable of mobilising even under unusual conditions. This edition was a reminder that the strength of the trade fair lies not only in its figures, but also in the loyalty of its community, the quality of its exchanges and the trust that unites exhibitors, visitors and partners.

Next EPHJ 2027: 8–11 June, Palexpo Geneva

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