



Jürg Meister studied Physics at the University of Bern in Switzerland, where he obtained his Doctorate in 1969. During his PhD studies, Meister helped design the Solar Wind Composition Experiment (SWC) and brought it himself in his hand luggage to Cape Canaveral. The SWC was deployed 5 times on the moon during the Apollo program (11,12,14,15,16). Meister received a Postdoc-stipend from ESRO-NASA and worked between 1969 and 1976 at RICE University, before returning to the University of Bern.

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Willy Benz studied physics in Switzerland at the Universities of Neuchâtel and Geneva where he obtained his PhD. He then went on to post-doctoral work at Los Alamos National Laboratory and at Harvard University. In 1997, he returned to Switzerland as a professor at the Physics Institute at the University of Bern. He is currently the director of the Swiss National Center “PlanetS” dedicated to the study of the formation, evolution, and characterization of planets within and outside the solar system. He is also the Principal Investigator of CHEOPS.