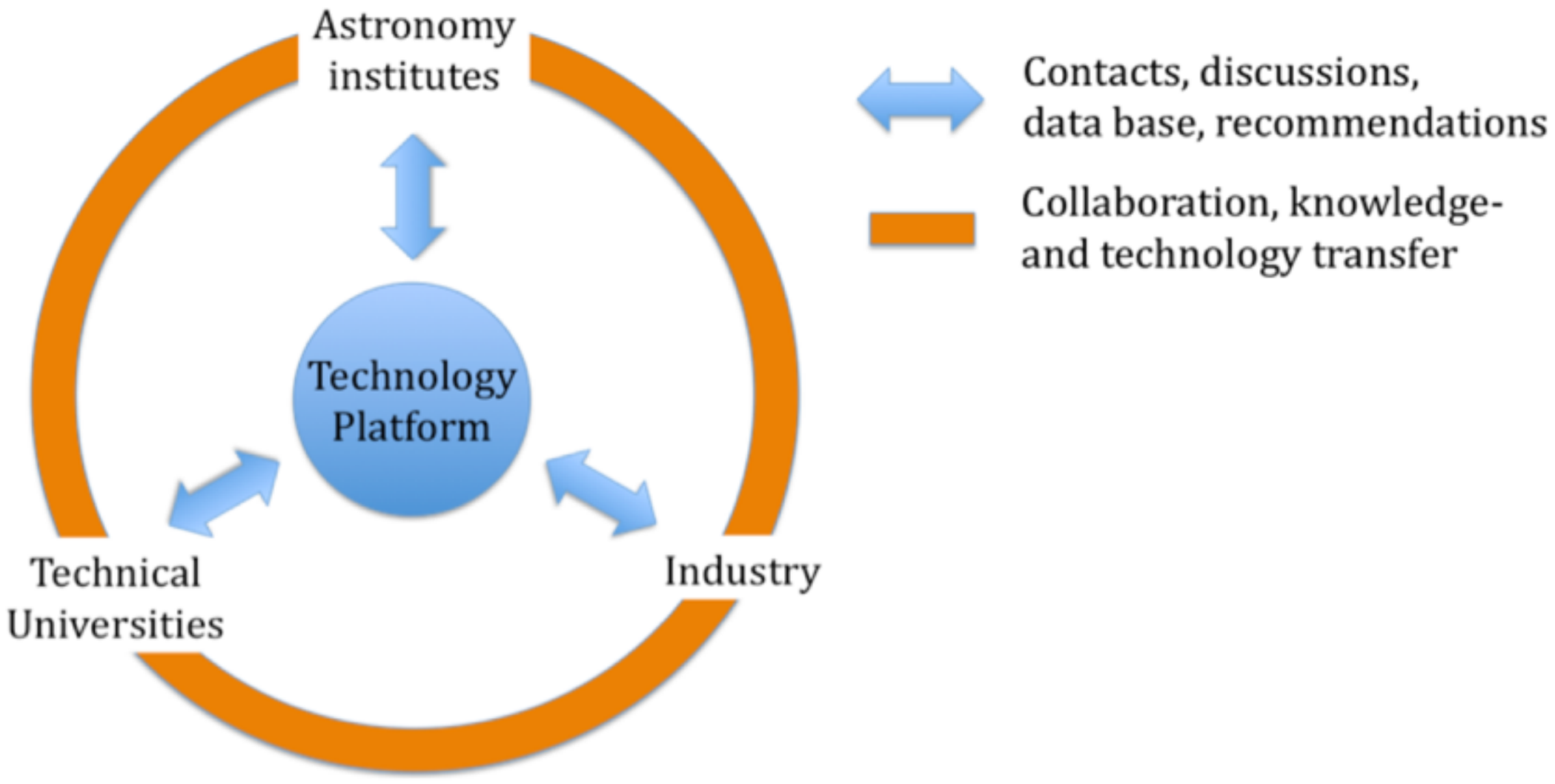
PlanetS National Centre of Competence in Research **Platform**

# Technology Platform

# **TP** Identified questions

- Poor coordination among Universities, HES, Industry
- In projects, engineers often ‘left alone’ in solution finding. Little knowledge of what is done elsewhere, what means and infrastructures are available, which industrial partners could help, in particular in Switzerland.
- (Swiss) industry has some difficulty in being ‘reactive’, invest money and take risks if no guarantee of return.
- Good ideas and found solutions remain ‘stand alone’, since little occasion for transfer of knowledge from Uni -> Industry. Start-up are nice ideas, but not always Universities have ‘time’ for it.
- Opposite to other technology research area, astronomy does not perform pure R&D, but would sometimes require it.

# **TP** Initial idea

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# **TP** SNSF 'Requirements'

Knowledge transfer towards private and public sector

- Objectives for the next phase, e.g.:
  - Collaborations
  - Events
  - Expositions, showrooms
  - Portals
  - Services
- Measures to achieve these goals

Technology transfer towards private and public sector

- Objectives for the next phase, e.g.:
  - Collaborations
  - Trade fairs
  - Intellectual property rights (IP)
  - Technology development
  - Spin-offs, Start-ups
  - Industry grants

# **TP** General goals

- A structure that 'enables' and provides 'seeds' for important activities such R&D, creation of spin-offs, exchange of information.
- Promote Networking activities
- The TP shall select specific projects for seed funding taking advantage of interactions with the various PlanetS projects.
- The TP shall put emphasis on personal relations, networking, more that technical and financial aspects.

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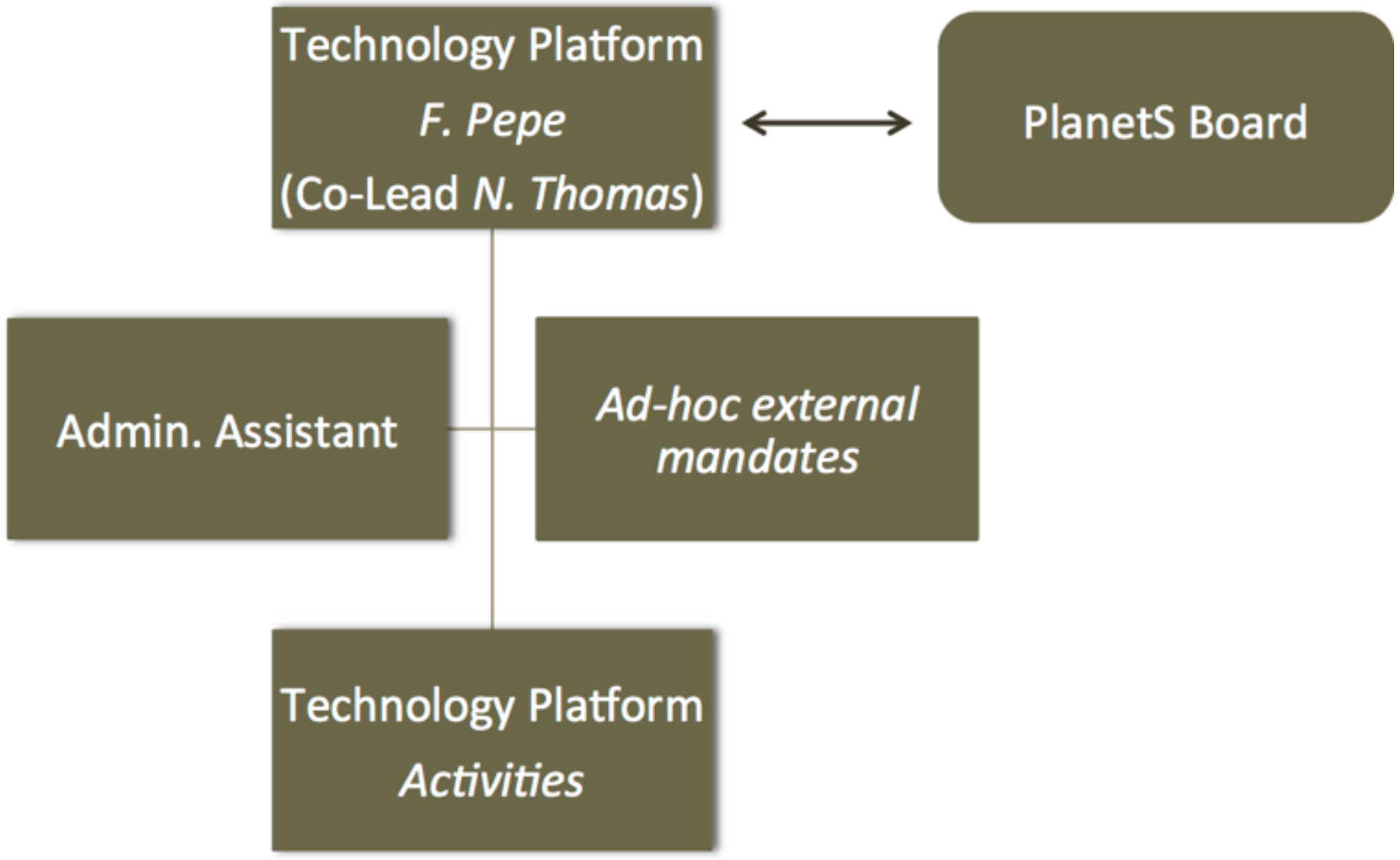
# **TP** Management

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# People involved in **TP**

- Francesco Pepe
  Platform leader, UGE

- Nicholas Thomas
  Co-leader, UBE

- Chantal Tacoy
  Administrative Assistant, UGE

# **TP** Funding

**NCCR, initial 4 years:**

- 810’000 CHF in total for Technology Platform
- Less than 50% for ‘Administration’ and ‘Consulting’
- At least 50% CHF for R&D ‘Sponsoring’ and ‘Seed Funding’

**Other:**

- 10-20% administrative support from UniGe + UniBe
- Thomas + Pepe + some support from individual projects
- Support from Unitectra and Unitec
- Collaboration with other entities (e.g. SSOM, MUST, QP, etc.?)

# **TP** Action Plan

1) Technology transfer between private and public sector

A. Define paths and propose coaching (through eternal experts) for various activities, e.g. spin-off and start-up ideas, preparation of CTI proposals, space qualification activities, etc.

B. Support submission of patents issued for PlanetS-related activities.

C. Assign seed funding to R&D projects related to PlanetS activities and involving at least a PlanetS project and at least one partner from industry and technical universities

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# **TP** Action Plan

2) Knowledge transfer between private and public sector

Prepare a web portal describing goals and rules of the TP. Describe individual PlanetS projects, their interests and competences, technologies, contact persons. Also, the rules for applying for seed funding must be published.

Mandate an 'expert' to establish a list of Swiss-wide contacts in the fields related to astronomy/planets (SW, electronics, mechanics, optics) containing:

- Company/Technical Universities/Research Institutes/Labs
- Competences and technologies
- Interests
- Contact persons

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# **TP** Action Plan

2) Knowledge transfer between private and public sector

Organize 1 or 2 topical workshops per year on areas identified as 'interests' in a large number of companies/institutes. Possibly combine with other NCCRs (MUST, QP), SwissPhotonics, or other organizations.

Create contacts with other NCCRs (MUST, QP) and organisations, such as EUROSEARCH, SSOM, local consulting entities like UniTec at UniGe and similar services in other Universities.

# **TP** Action Plan

2) Knowledge transfer between private and public sector

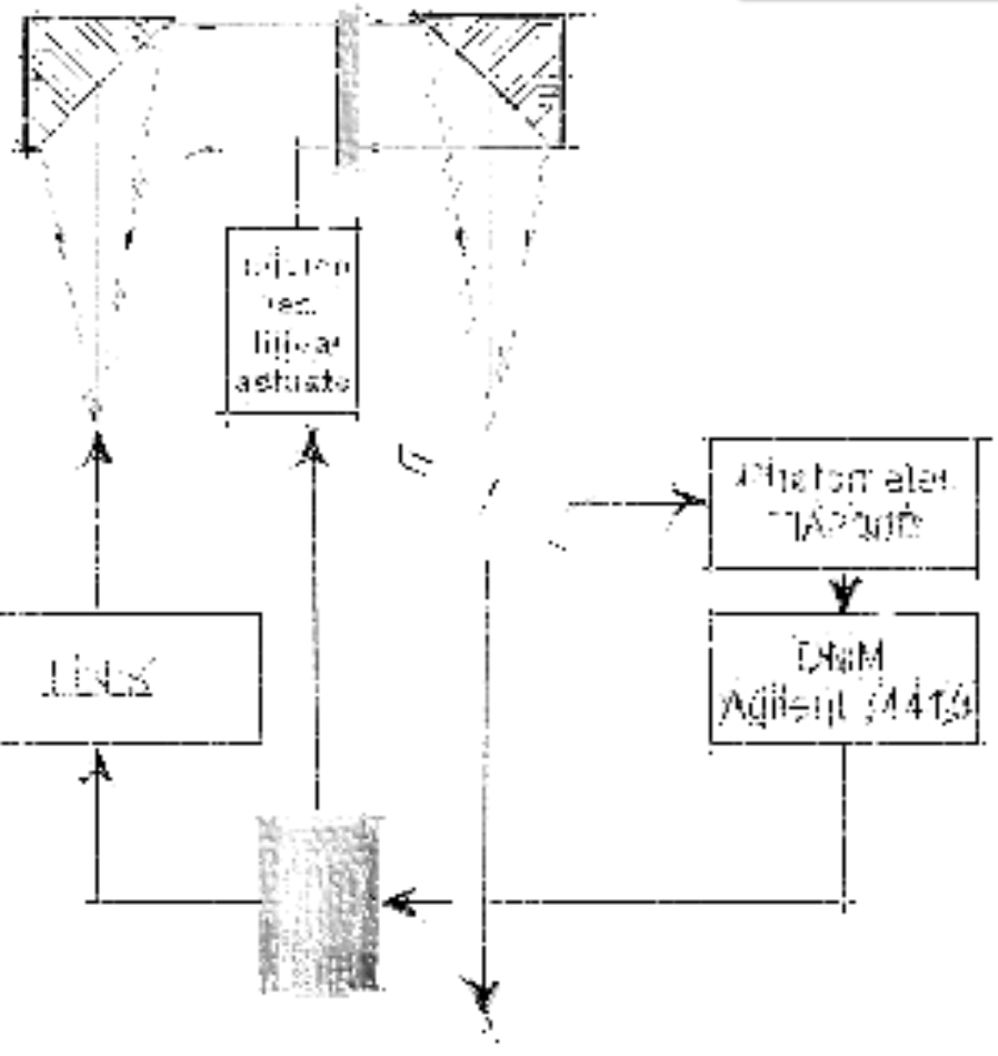
Mandate an expert for a Swiss-wide database containing available infrastructures and instruments (and conditions) in the previously mentioned entities. Could be done through a web form. Database will be made available to all the contributors.

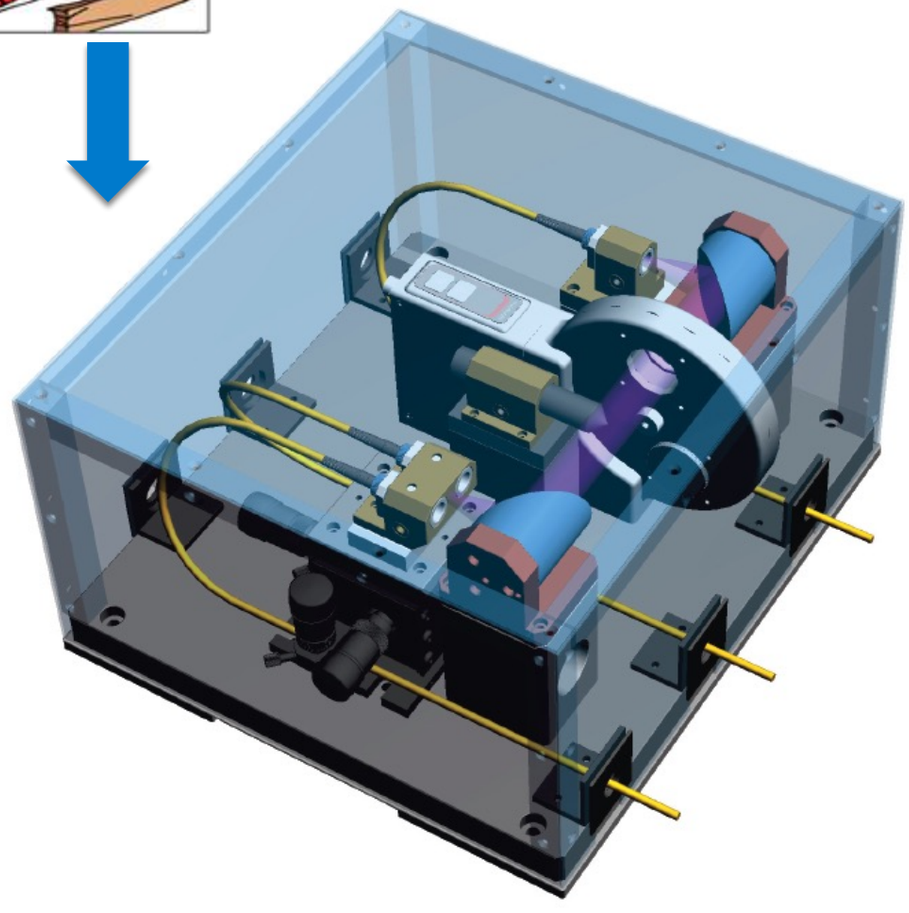
Organize, enable or contribute to events that help improving the exchange of information and knowledge between all the parties, including students and futures collaborators.

# **TP** Some examples

- Support for UniBe KTI-project (Compact femto-second laser
- Support for patenting a ultra-stable light sources
- Seed funding for the development of a calibration LFC
- Mandate external expert soon (in negotiation)

# Super-Stabilized Source



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# **TP** Office activities

- Provide administrative support and logistics for the Technology Platform Board and its meetings
- Prepare a yearly activity report
- Organize and follow-up the implementation of a data base of Swiss facilities and instrumentation related to astronomy
- Organize and follow-up the implementation of a Swiss technology and knowledge database related with astronomy
- Manage Technology Platform funding in accordance with the NCCR directives and the Board's recommendations
- Provide and maintain web page

# **TP** WebPage

http://nccr-planets.ch/platforms/technology-transfer/

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