

Pop went the weasel and down went the Large Hadron Collider

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Geneva: Itâ€™s one of the physics worldâ€™s most complex machines, and it has been immobilized - temporarily - by a weasel.

Spokesperson Arnaud Marsollier says the worldâ€™s largest atom smasher, the Large Hadron Collider at CERN outside of Geneva, has suspended operations because a weasel invaded a transformer that helps power the machine and set off an electrical outage on Thursday night.

Â Â Â Authorities say the incident was one of several small glitches that will delay plans to restart the collider by a few days.

Marsollier says Friday that the weasel died - and little remains of it.

Officials of the European Organisation for Nuclear Research, known by its French acronym CERN, have been gearing up for new data from the 27-kilometer (17-mile) circuit that runs underground on the Swiss-French border.

- AP