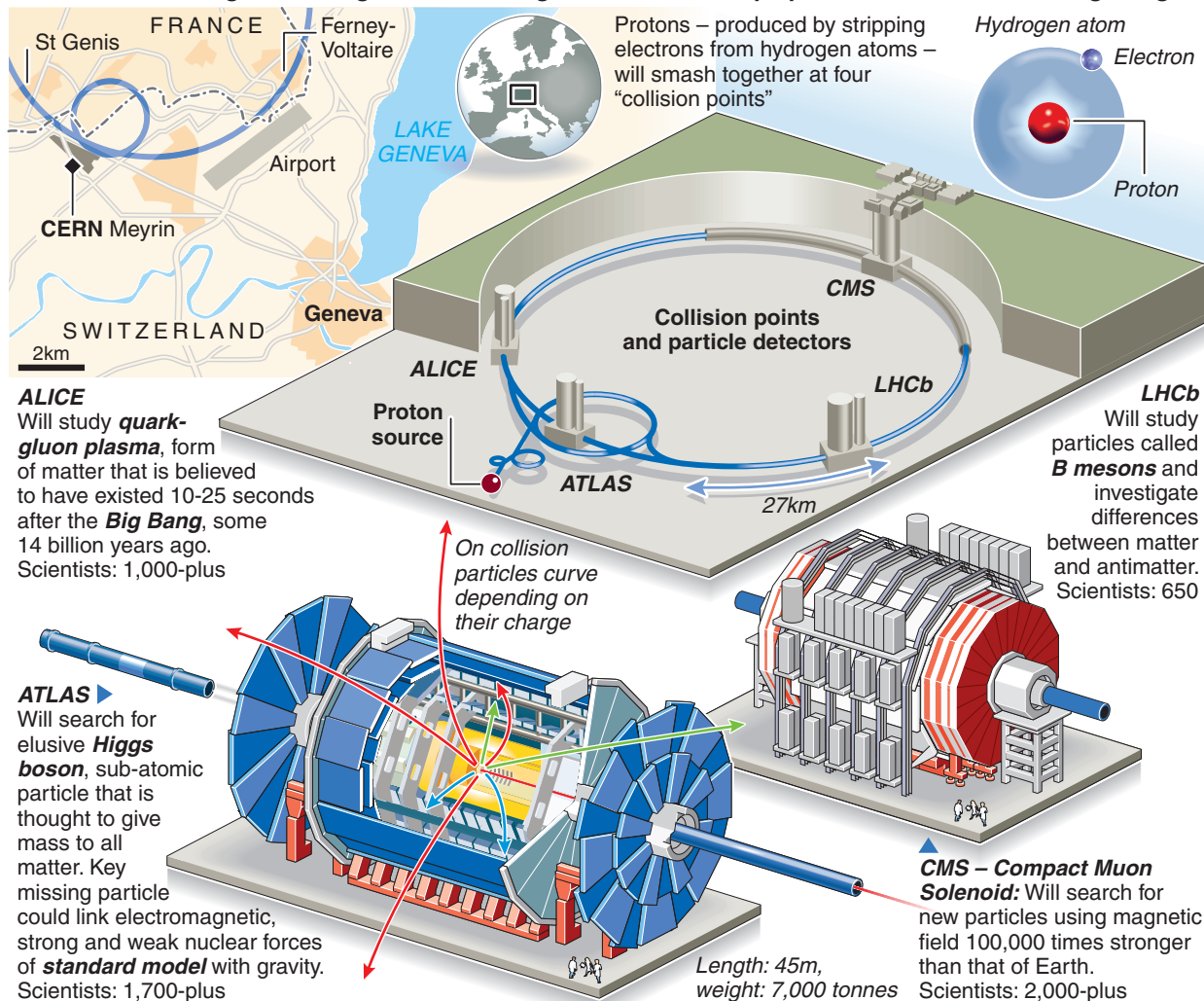


Big Bang machine in search for smallest particle

The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) will accelerate two beams of protons around a 27km ring and smash them together at 99.99% the speed of light. Its 9,300 magnets will guide the particles through a vacuum at minus 271 degrees Centigrade, recreating conditions in deep space moments after the Big Bang



Particle tracks: Reveal size, mass, how particles interact, and their role in standard model. **Some 600 million collisions will take place every second**