

News Release

18 December 2025

Limmern pumped storage power plant: first electricity supplied to the Swiss grid ten years ago

18 December 2015 is a historic date for the Swiss energy system: the Limmern pumped storage power plant supplied electricity to the Swiss transmission grid for the first time. For ten years, this project of the century has been functioning like a giant battery, making it an indispensable element in Switzerland's electricity supply.

At 9.57 a.m. sharp on 18 December 2015, the moment had arrived: the first of the PSWL's four turbines fed electricity into the Swiss transmission grid for the first time. Since then, it has produced a total of around 9.3 terawatt hours of electricity. That is roughly equivalent to the annual consumption of all Swiss households combined. To achieve this, the four pump turbines have turbined or pumped back up a total of 6.2 billion cubic metres of water. This is roughly equivalent to the volume of Lake Thun or the annual water consumption of all Swiss households for around 14 years.

Billions invested in security of supply

Axpo invested around CHF 2.1 billion in this once-in-a-century construction project in the Glarus Alps. With its two reservoirs, the PSWL functions like a giant battery for renewable energies. When there is a lot of electricity available from photovoltaic and wind power plants, the PSWL uses this surplus energy to pump water from Lake Limmern to the higher-lying Lake Mutt.

When demand exceeds production, the water flows back through the turbines into Limmernsee and the pumped storage plant generates electricity. The PSWL thus compensates for short-term fluctuations in production and demand, making an indispensable contribution to Switzerland's secure and reliable electricity supply.

About Axpo

Axpo is driven by a single purpose – to enable a sustainable future through innovative energy solutions. Axpo is Switzerland's largest energy producer and an international leader in energy trading and the marketing of solar and wind power. Axpo combines the experience and expertise of about 7,500 employees who are driven by a passion for innovation, collaboration and impactful change. Using cutting-edge technologies, Axpo innovates to meet the evolving needs of its customers in over 30 countries across Europe, North America and Asia.

Additional information

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