

● **Press release**

15 December 2020

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## New Director for Nant de Drance SA

As of 1 January 2021, Alain Sauthier, current Deputy Director of Nant de Drance SA, will take over as Director of the company as planned. He will succeed Eric Wuilloud who will be retiring at the end of 2020 after devoting 14 years of his career to the Nant de Drance project. In 2018, Alain Sauthier was already appointed Asset Manager by the Board of Directors of Nant de Drance SA and intended to manage the pumped storage power plant upon completion of the work.

Alain Sauthier, EPF mechanical engineer, will supervise the gradual commissioning of the six 150 MW pump turbines housed in the power plant. Water testing of the first machines has started in May 2020 and will continue throughout 2021. The initiation of commercial operation of the power plant is scheduled for end 2021.

The Board of Directors of Nant de Drance SA heartily thanks Eric Wuilloud for his many years of commitment and major contribution to the Nant de Drance project. The Board would also like to wish Alain Sauthier every success.

For more information about Nant de Drance, please visit [www.nant-de-drance.ch](http://www.nant-de-drance.ch)

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**Nant de Drance SA in brief**

The aim of the Nant de Drance project is to build a pumped storage power plant in a cavern between the Emosson and Vieux Emosson reservoirs in the canton of Valais. With a total capacity of 900 MW, the power plant will play a key role in keeping the electricity grid stable both in Switzerland and across Europe. Nant de Drance SA, owned by Alpiq (39%), SBB (36%), IWB (15%) and FMV (10%), is responsible for building the power plant, bringing it online and operating it.