

Press release
13 May 2025, 2.30 p.m.

An unwavering pioneering spirit for 75 years

Sion – 75 years ago, Grande Dixence SA was founded to build and operate the hydroelectric facility that would become the largest in Switzerland. Over the next seven months, it plans to celebrate this jubilee in a fitting manner: a travelling exhibition in the concession-granting municipalities, the publication of a historical book, an exhibition on the top of the Grande Dixence dam and a day at the Foire du Valais are all on the programme.

On 25 August 1950, EOS (Energie Ouest Suisse, now Alpiq), founded Grande Dixence SA in Sion with the aim of building and then operating a hydroelectric facility in order to meet the growing electricity needs of French-speaking Switzerland. Some 75 years later, Grande Dixence remains the largest hydroelectric complex in Switzerland and holds several world records, including the highest gravity dam. The construction of dams and production plants has greatly contributed to the development of the Alpine valleys in which they are located. “From the very beginning, Grande Dixence showed a great pioneering spirit that has left its mark on Valais, Switzerland and the world of hydropower. Proud of this heritage, we are keen to celebrate our 75th anniversary with the population by taking a historical look at this exceptional construction, while continuing to adapt the existing infrastructure to future needs”, says Amédée Murisier, Chairman of Grande Dixence SA.

A packed programme

To mark its anniversary, Grande Dixence has planned various events over the coming months. “Grand Dixence has contributed to the development of the Alpine valleys and is part of the history of the region. We would like to highlight the importance of our facility by organising a travelling exhibition in all the concession-granting municipalities and showcasing our know-how to the general public”, explains Beat Imboden, Director of Grande Dixence SA.

75 years at a glance

- A travelling exhibition: from May to December, Grande Dixence will meet the population of the 20 concession-granting municipalities – those that assigned water rights to the company in order to produce electricity – and of two site municipalities.
- A book entitled “Grande Dixence SA, un esprit pionnier depuis 75 ans”: for history buffs, historian and archivist Brigitte Kalbermatten retraces the saga of Grande Dixence SA. She will attend the vernissage on 4 June 2025 at 6.30 pm at the Librairie La Liseuse book store in Sion.
- An exhibition on the dam: open from June to October, the dam will be given a new look this summer and will take nearly 100,000 visitors on a journey through time.
- Foire de Valais: Grande Dixence SA will be in the spotlight at the Foire du Valais, at the Alpiq stand on Friday, 3 October.

Link:

- [Travelling exhibition programme: dates and locations](#)

More information about Grande Dixence can be found at www.grande-dixence.ch

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Grande Dixence SA at a glance

Founded in 1950, Grande Dixence SA is the leading provider of electric power in Switzerland and Europe. The Sion-based company owns the Grande Dixence hydroelectric facility, which drains water from 35 Valais glaciers stretching from the Mattertal (Zermatt region) to Val d'Hérens. The flagship of this complex, the Grande Dixence Dam stores the water collected. Grande Dixence SA produces one fifth of the country's damming energy. All the energy produced by the facility is delivered to its four shareholders, who share the company's share capital (CHF 300 million). These four shareholders are: Alpiq Suisse SA (60%), Axpo Power AG (13 1/3%), BKW Energie AG (13 1/3%) and IWB Industrielle Werke Basel (13 1/3%).