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MEDIA RELEASE

PILATUS-BAHNEN AG

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Bad weather and technical challenges lead to delays

PILATUS-BAHNEN AG: Steepest cog railway in the world starts on 5 June

The planned start of the season on Ascension Thursday, 18 May, has been postponed to Monday, 5 June, due to various challenges still to be met. The project of the century, which has continued to take shape over the last five years, now needs 20 days longer than planned for finalization. In the meantime, guests can still reach Mount Pilatus by cable car via Kriens.

Lucerne, 28 April 2023 - Much was ready for the start of the season on Ascension Day. Now the bad weather with fresh snow and technical problems have put a spanner in the Pilatus Railways' works. The delays have meant that the test runs with the entire system - eight new railcars in double traction and a new train control system - could not yet be sufficiently carried out. These test runs are essential in order to guarantee safe and trouble-free operation according to the timetable. This is also connected with the intensive training and driving school for the employees of the rack railway.

Employees first

"We very much regret the postponement. However, our employees in particular still have to complete a few intensive days of training in order to gain confidence in the new technology and to be able to act appropriately in the event of an incident. The safety of our guests and staff comes first. And above all, we want to ensure reliable operation right from the start," says Godi Koch, CEO of PILATUS-BAHNEN AG.

The somewhat later start of the season ensures that the guests enjoy their excursion and the employees can go about their work with pleasure.





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Weather caprices beyond our control

The snowfall of the last few weeks, the low temperatures and the resulting danger of avalanches made it impossible to carry out the necessary test runs from the Alpnachstad valley station to the Pilatus Kulm mountain station. The project, which heralds a new era, thus needs 20 days more time than planned. Considering that a project of the century is being built here, a blink of an eye, but one that has some positive effects.

Godi Koch again: "We are convinced that we have made the right decision and can thus ensure a successful start to the season."

For individual travelers and groups who have already booked their excursion to Mount Pilatus, Drachenberg remains accessible without restriction thanks to the journey via Kriens.
