

First battery-powered ropeway in the world



Photo: Barholet Ropeways

Access to the Alpstein areas becomes faster and easier. A new Staubern ropeway for the hotel-restaurant of the same name is being built. It will be packed with cutting-edge, environmentally compatible technology.

With a boost from the sun, both state-of-the-art cabins will be whisked along the picturesque slope on their way to the top. Batteries that have just tanked up on solar power will move them forward. This is something unique. The new valley station in Frümsen will also be equipped with a photovoltaic system that will produce power right on the spot. Because our home star does not always shine, the power will be kept in a temporary storage site. «The best technology available right now was developed by Tesla,» Roland Barholet says. For this reason, the company selected the high-performance storage module used in the futuristic electric car to ensure that the two-motor, 51-kilowatt drive system can operate in all types of weather, the Vice President of the Board of Directors said.

The world's first battery-powered ropeway has one other unbeatable feature as well. A copper wire has been threaded through the track rope of the gondolas, and it will carry electricity from the valley to restaurant Gasthaus Staubern located at the top. In the past, the power was provided by a diesel generator. Those days will soon be over, and the area's carbon footprint will be shrunk as a result.

The capacity of the lift will be doubled

If that was not enough, a fiber optic cable has also been weaved into the track rope. «It will transmit information like telephone, video and weight monitoring of the gondolas.» This will facilitate the fully automated handling of the passenger cab and its continuous monitoring during the trip. Passengers may also be taken by the contemporary outfit of the new gondolas. It is the product of the future lab of the «Porsche Design Studio.»

**Barholet
Maschinenbau AG**
Seilbahnen

Lochriet
CH – 8890 Flums

tel +41 (0) 81 720 10 60
fax +41 (0) 81 720 10 61

admin@bmf-ag.ch
www.bmf-ag.ch

Ein Unternehmen der BMF Group AG

Seilbahnen
Maschinenbau
Lasertech
Grossbearbeitung
Swiss Rides
Swiss Road Trains
Solar Wings

Ein Mitglied
der Cobinet-Gruppe
www.cobinet.ch

Complemented by a lighting and telephone system, both gondolas will travel twice as fast as before, covering seven meters per second. They will also be able to carry heavier loads, up to about 2.5 tons. Because eight people, instead of six, can be comfortably seated here, the transport capacity will more than double, to 72 people per hour. During the return trip to the valley, the released energy will be stored in the Tesla battery once again, completing the energy cycle.



Photo: Bartholet Ropeways

Opening in April 2018

The team from the Staubern ropeway is planning a festive weekend to celebrate the opening. The event for the new season is scheduled for the weekend after Easter, from April 6 - 8, 2018.



Photo: Reinold Meier

Text: Reinold Meier

**Bartholet
Maschinenbau AG**
Seilbahnen

Lochriet
CH – 8890 Flums

tel +41 (0) 81 720 10 60
fax +41 (0) 81 720 10 61

admin@bmf-ag.ch
www.bmf-ag.ch

**Ein Unternehmen
der BMF Group AG**

Seilbahnen
Maschinenbau
Lasertech
Grossbearbeitung
Swiss Rides
Swiss Road Trains
Solar Wings

Ein Mitglied
der Cobinet-Gruppe
www.cobinet.ch