Alpine IEEE Day 2026 – Energies for the Future

Sion and Grande Dixence, Switzerland, 9–10 October 2026

The IEEE Switzerland Section Life Members Affinity Group (LMAG) organized Alpine IEEE Day 2026 under the theme *"Energies for the Future."* Coordinated by Michel Bron, Vice-Chair of the IEEE Switzerland LMAG, the event brought together 18 participants for a two-day programme combining technical presentations, laboratory demonstrations, and visits to important Swiss energy facilities.

On Friday, 9 October, participants gathered at EPFL Valais in Sion for a welcome by Professor Maréchal and an introduction to Energypolis. The technical programme covered the energy landscape, energy storage, presented by Professor Rahul Gupta, and aspects of hydro energy and fluid dynamics by the group of Prof. Yim. Participants then visited the Power-to-Gas laboratory, where Professor Van Herle demonstrated synthetic fuel technologies, followed by a presentation of the District Energy Platform by Professor Jessen Page. The afternoon concluded with a visit to Evolium Technologies SA, offering further insight into re-use of batteries at the industrial start-up level.

On Saturday, 10 October, the group travelled to Grande Dixence Dam, one of Switzerland's most impressive engineering achievements. Standing 285 metres high, it is the tallest dam in Europe and the tallest gravity dam in the world. The Grande Dixence hydroelectric complex has a maximum power output of approximately 2,069 MW, exceeding the 1,285 MW output of Switzerland's largest nuclear power plant. This comparison illustrates the significant contribution of hydropower to Switzerland's electricity system. Michel Bron presented the dam's current operation and future projects, while IEEE Fellow Nisheeth Singh discussed the European electricity network. The programme concluded with a visit to the dam.

Alpine IEEE Day 2026 provided a valuable opportunity to explore emerging energy technologies, exchange technical knowledge, and appreciate the importance of Switzerland's hydroelectric infrastructure within the wider European energy system. The combination of academic research, industrial demonstrations, and a visit to a landmark engineering structure made the event an enriching experience for all participants.

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