

## Press Release

Rotkreuz, November 10, 2023

### **View of the Matterhorn through the magnifying glass**

**The new Zermatt–Furi tramway went into service at the beginning of November. Its striking feature is the first tower after the lower terminal, which opens up a view of the Matterhorn. In addition, this ropeway is the first large reversible aerial tramway to be equipped with AURO technology.**

The new tramway brings a significant increase in transport capacity and is part of the "Matterhorn Alpine Crossing", the highest ropeway route linking two countries in the Alps. The feature that immediately catches the eye is the first tower, which is reminiscent of a magnifying glass. This unconventional tower construction is unique and was designed to suit the local topography. The shape of the tower enables passengers to see the Matterhorn through the imaginary glass.

The installation is located next to the 8-seater gondola Matterhorn Express, the main feeder gondola that operates almost 360 days a year. The ongoing operations of this lift called for special safety measures when it came to dismantling the old towers and installing the new ones on the tramway. The ropes had to be pulled above houses, hiking trails and roads, which posed challenges for the planning and execution.

#### **Many innovations**

Special design features on the tower saddles dampen the noise on the first tower. This is also the first aerial tramway to use the Performa haul rope made by Fatzer AG, which, thanks to its virtually cylindrical surface structure, runs over the sheaves with low noise and virtually no vibration. Peak Line components, such as compact station saddles requiring no haul rope sheaves, have been used in the bottom terminal for the first time. The cabins on this tramway were made by the cabin manufacturer CWA based in Olten and offer a rooftop ride on the uphill side in the summer.

AURO has been incorporated for the first time on a large aerial tramway. AURO stands for "Autonomous Ropeway Operation" and enables a ropeway to be run with unmanned stations. The tramway is equipped with cameras and sensors that continuously capture and transmit safety data. This technology allows the installation to run in accordance with a defined timetable without operating personnel to perform monitoring functions. The ropeway crew can then be deployed for other tasks and only need to intervene in the case of a safety stop on the installation. AURO means enhanced safety through rapid response in hazard scenarios as the system is not subject to fatigue and is able to act simultaneously from various perspectives. AURO operation is due to commence at the start of 2024.

#### **100-ATW Zermatt–Furi, Zermatt**

Customer: Zermatt Bergbahnen AG  
Inclined length: 1,680 m  
Vertical rise: 234 m  
Capacity: 1,030 PPH  
Speed: 10 m/s  
Opened: 11/2023

**Images:** <https://coco.doppelmayr.com/pinaccess/showpin.do?pinCode=VLr12e73HHvG>

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**About Garaventa AG**

Garaventa AG is a Swiss company headquartered in Rotkreuz, with additional sites in Goldau, Uetendorf and Sion. It is the Swiss branch of the Doppelmayr Group and has established itself as the competence center with international reach for reversible aerial tramway, funicular railway and material ropeway systems as well as for complex rope installation work. Garaventa is also responsible for all ropeway projects of the Doppelmayr Group in Switzerland. All functions and competencies for special ropeways are made available to the Group worldwide from Switzerland. Garaventa employs 380 people in Switzerland.

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