

Innovations in Hydropower Plant Operation and Maintenance 2026

Inspection | Modernization | Research



vgbe Expert Event
19 and 20 March 2026
Salzburg | Austria

First issue: 11 December 2026

Innovations in Hydropower Plant Operation and Maintenance 2026

Innovative approaches to the operation, maintenance and inspection of hydropower facilities are needed to ensure optimal performance. Poor operation, maintenance and inspection through a lack of investment, inadequate training or outdated approaches, can cause high outage rates, performance losses and increased operating costs. These often lead to lost energy production, reduced revenues and in some cases result in safety and environmental concerns.

Choosing whether to maintain or upgrade hydropower plant components can be difficult. Poor original equipment reliability can force changes, but often a detailed cost-benefit analysis is needed to make decisions. Understanding how others have tackled this process can help ensure success at your plant.

You will learn from experts of leading operators and manufacturer companies about their newest developments and opportunities for maintaining your hydropower fleet. This may help you in decision-making and in finding O&M strategy solutions in your company.

CONFERENCE VENUE

Messezentrum Salzburg
Am Messezentrum 1
5020 Salzburg | Austria

OFFICE AND LANGUAGE

The office will be open
from 09:00 a.m.
The conference language
is English.

EVENING EVENT

On Thursday, 19 March 2026, starting at 17:00 p.m., all conference participants are invited to a get-together at RENEXPO® INTERHYDRO's Evening Networking Event.

CONFERENCE TICKET

Participation	Single ticket (1 participant)	Package ticket (3 participants)
Non-members	€ 800.--	€ 1,950.--
vgbe members	€ 600.--	€ 1,450.--
Universities, Authorities	€ 350.--	€ 850.--

The participation fees include the conference presentations (after the conference), coffee breaks, lunch on the first day, participation in the Evening Networking Event and a two-day ticket to the trade fair Renexpo® Interhydro.

All participants of the conference are requested to register online and the Austrian VAT will be shown in the invoice.

ONLINE REGISTRATION

<https://register.vgbe.energy/32426/>

vgbe energy e.V.

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PRIVACY POLICY & GENERAL TERMS

Detailed information on data protection as well as the general terms and conditions can be found here:
<https://t1p.de/vgbe-vsAGBen> (external shortlink)

MEDIAPARTNER AND COOPERATION

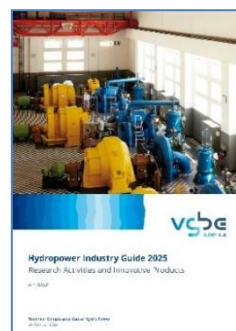


RENEXPO
CONNECT ENERGIES

Renexpo® Interhydro
offers ideal exhibition
opportunities.

CET	THURSDAY, 19 MARCH 2026
10:00	Welcome and opening of the Expert Event <i>M. Bachhiesl, vgbe energy</i>
10:10	SESSION 1 Lecture 1: Technical and cost benchmarking for run-of-river power plants <i>M. Bachhiesl, vgbe energy</i> Lecture 2: Maintenance of hydropower runners: Best grinding practices and innovations <i>D. Korpál, SUHNER Schweiz AG</i> Lecture 3: Cavitation monitoring of hydropower turbines using machine learning <i>E. Sanchez, Hochschule München</i> Lecture 4: Refurbishment or new construction? Economic and technical decision basis for hydropower turbine operators <i>S. Kluger, H&S Hard- & Software Technologie GmbH & Co. KG</i>
12:00	Lunch break and visit to the Trade Fair
14:00	SESSION 2 Lecture 5: Technical specifics of refurbishing main shut-off devices in hydropower plants <i>A. Pretis, EFG Turbinenbau</i> Lecture 6: How valve technology from the oil and gas industry can help hydropower operation? <i>T. Fuchs, Mokveld Valves</i> Lecture 7: SHPP penstocks rehabilitation up to PN 40 <i>K. Bissinger, KUCHLER Rohrsanierung GmbH</i> Lecture 8: Lifetime Assessment in Hydropower Units: A critical review and possible improvements <i>E. Doujak, M. Krottendorfer, D. Patauner, TU Wien IET</i>
16:00	Closing words

CET	FRIDAY, 20 MARCH 2026
09:00	Welcome <i>M. Bachhiesl, vgbe energy</i>
09:00	SESSION 3 Lecture 9: Towards intelligent monitoring of hydropower plants: Controlling vibrations, sediment, and efficiency <i>M. Seydoux, HYDRO Exploitation</i> Lecture 10: Safe and reliable long term operation by an improved lifetime assessment method <i>S. Frank, Materials Testing Institute (MPA), University of Stuttgart</i> Lecture 11: Complex rehabilitation projects - new execution models: Alliance contracts and multi - parties agreements on Integrated Project Delivery (IPD) in a partnership model <i>B. Geisseler, GEISSELER LAW</i> Lecture 12: Robotized penstock inspection – Current state of the art <i>T. Beguin, P. Cerckel, ENGIE Laborelec</i>
11:00	Closing words and opportunity to visit the Research Session and Trade Fair



Hydropower Industry Guide 2025

Up-to-date and multi-faceted overview of products and services offered within the hydropower sector are published in vgbe's Hydropower Industry Guide.

Free download: [here](#)

CET	FRIDAY, 20 MARCH 2026
11:30	Research Session (Exhibition Hall) <i>Mario Bachhiesl, vgbe energy</i>
	The research session will delve into the latest research outcomes from European projects. Attendees will gain insights into breakthrough technologies, innovative methodologies, and key findings that are shaping the future of river management, ecology and hydropower. By showcasing these research projects, the session aims to provide valuable knowledge to enhance the operation, maintenance, and overall performance of hydropower plants while also reducing environmental impacts. Join us to explore how these research outcomes drive progress and foster innovation.
11:40	Lecture 13 Results of the survey on the modernisation of hydroelectric power plants in Europe (ReHydro Link to website: here) <i>M. Bachhiesl, L. Estrellado, vgbe energy</i>
12:00	Lecture 14 Novel long-term electricity storage technologies for flexible hydropower (Store2Hydro Link to website: here) <i>E. Doujak, TU Wien IET</i>
12:20	Lecture 15 Contributions of freshwater ecology to sustainable river management in Central Asia (Hydro4U Link to website: here) <i>D. Hayes, BOKU University</i>
12:40	Lecture 16 ETIP HYDROPOWER: Key Hydropower Publications (ETIP HYDROPOWER Link to website: here) <i>L. Estrellado, vgbe energy</i>
12:55	Closing words and opportunity to visit the trade fair
15:00	End of RENEXPO® INTERHYDRO