

Pierre-Alain Urech



Degree in civil engineering from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH Zurich)

Born in Pompaples (Vaud Canton) on 13 December 1955

Place of origin: La Tour-de-Peilz (Vaud Canton) and Seon (Aargau Canton)

Languages: French, German and English

Married with two children and four grandchildren

Education:

1974: High school diploma (concentrations: mathematics and natural sciences), Neuchâtel

1980: Civil engineering degree, ETH Zurich (concentrations: transport and hydraulics)

1983: Postgraduate diploma in railways business management, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL)

1984–2019: Various executive-education courses in management, marketing, finance, and human resources

1991: Diploma in business administration, SKU, Montreux

2000: Advanced English course, London English School, London

2000: General Manager diploma, Columbia University, New York

Career:

1980–1982: SBB (Swiss Federal Railways), engineer at the construction and engineering division headquarters in Bern

1983–1985: SBB, head of track maintenance unit in Lausanne (400 staff members)

1986–1987: SBB, continuing professional development courses in operations and sales through SBB's executive board in Bern and various external organizations in Switzerland

1987–1989: SBB, head of railway operations planning for SBB's first district in Lausanne

1989–1991: SBB, deputy head of operations for SBB's first district in Lausanne

1991–1994: SBB, led and reorganized the Rail 2000 project as general manager and representative of SBB executive board, submitted updated project plan, with report for the Swiss Parliament, reducing costs from CHF 16.5 billion to CHF 5.7 billion

1994–1995: SBB, first district manager, Lausanne; member of the Swiss Federal Railways executive board

1995–1998: SBB, member of the executive board and head of infrastructure, Bern

1999–2003: SBB, reorganized as a business corporation. Deputy CEO and member of executive board, head of infrastructure (10,000 staff members)

2004–30 September 2019: CEO of Romande Energie Group in Morges (including listed company Romande Energie Holding SA)

Since 1 October 2019: partially retired, corporate directorships

Board seats (1994-2019):

Chairman of seven boards of directors, vice chairman of four boards and member of 12 boards of companies in various industries: railways in Switzerland, France, and Germany, hydroelectric and nuclear power, IT, road and rail logistics, road-based public transport, building services, and sales and marketing.

Current board seats:

- Forces Motrices Hongrin-Léman SA: chairman
- Forces Motrices du Grand-St-Bernard SA: chairman (until June 2021)
- Dransenergie SA: chairman (until June 2021)
- Télé Villars-Gryon-Diablerets SA: chairman
- nco-ing SA engineering services, Monthey: chairman
- Swiss Federal Railways SBB-CFF SA: vice chairman
- Lausanne-Echallens-Bercher (LEB) Railway SA: board member
- Magic Mountains Cooperation cooperative (Magic Pass): board member

Other roles and activities between 1995 and 2019:

- International delegation on the business of the Simplon Railway: chairman
- Forum Train Europe Paris (European rail timetable coordination): chairman
- LITRA: committee member
- EPFL: member of the industrial committee
- EPFL: member of the research committee; member of the committee to evaluate two new professors for the Energy Center and the chair of electrical networks
- EPFL: examination expert for the master's degree in railway engineering
- Vaud chamber of Commerce and Industry (CVCI): member of the strategy council
- CVCI: member of the manufacturing and exports committee
- RegioGrid (association of cantonal and regional electric companies): chairman
- AES (association of Swiss electric companies): vice chairman