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Pilatus Aircraft

The PC-6 Porter was Pilatus's first aircraft to achieve widespread international success.

PC-6 Porter Pilatus aircraft

The company was established in 1939, but it was not until 1944 that a Pilatus-built aircraft, the SB-2 Pelican, first took to the air. Soon after, in 1945, Pilatus started producing the P-2 trainer for the Swiss Air Force, of which 54 were built. This was followed by the P-3 military trainer, built for the Swiss Air Force (72 aircraft) and the Brazilian Navy (6 aircraft), in 1953.

In 1959, the legendary civilian PC-6 Porter was introduced. This popular utility aircraft and its successor, the Turbo Porter, are still being built today. Pilatus introduced the PC-11 (also known as the B-4) all-metal glider in 1972, of which a total of 322 were eventually built.

1978 saw the first flight of the tandem-seat PC-7 Turbo Trainer. To date, more than 450 PC-7s have been built. Pilatus built the first PC-9 Advanced Turbo Trainer in 1984; more than 250 aircraft of this type have been built to date.
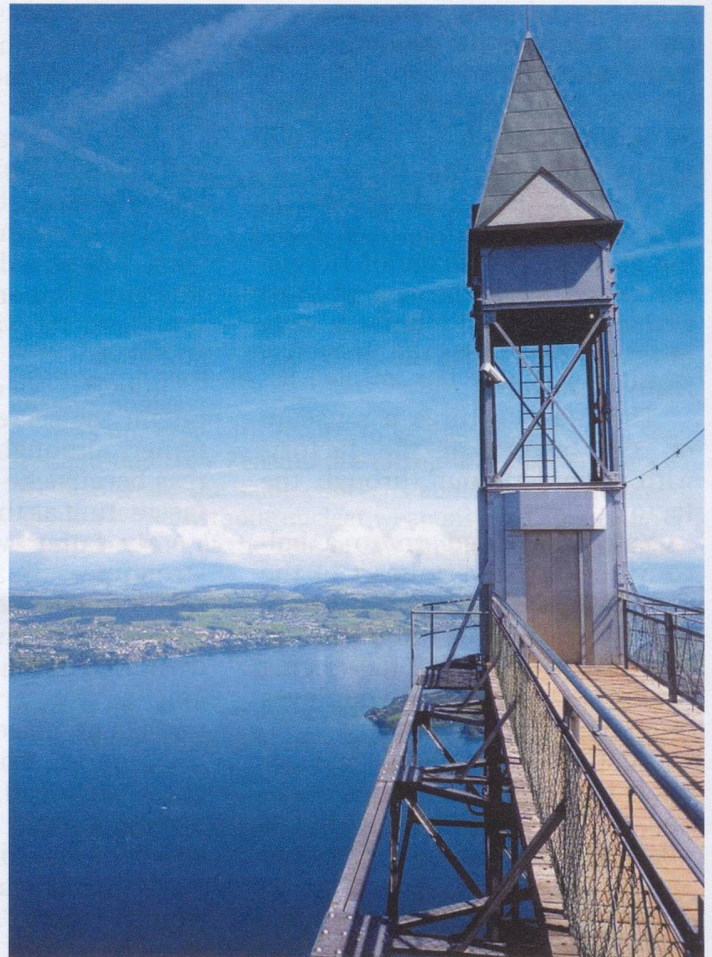
The first of more than 70 PC-7 MkII Turbo Trainers was built in 1994. The same year saw the introduction of Pilatus's most successful plane, the turboprop-powered PC-12 multi-purpose aircraft. To date, more than 1000 have been built.

The first PC-12 Eagle surveillance aircraft was built in 1995, further developments led to the PC-12 Spectre, and in recent years adoption of the PC-12 by the USAF as the U-28A. It is marketed in the western hemisphere by Pilatus Business Aircraft, a subsidiary of Pilatus Aircraft headquartered in Broomfield, Colorado.

The latest-generation PC-21 advanced trainer was rolled out in 2002. Pilatus recently signed contracts to deliver 19 PC-21s to the Singapore Air Force and a further 6 PC-21s to the Swiss Air Force. *Internet*

Hammetschwand Elevator

The Hammetschwand Lift is the highest exterior elevator of Europe. It connects a spectacular rock path with the lookout point Hammetschwand on the Bürgenstock plateau overlooking Lake Lucerne.

The Hammetschwand elevator

The hotel resort Bürgenstock located at 847m above sea level has been a popular vacation spot since 1872. Its attraction was enhanced by the spectacular path along the vertical rock face and by an outdoor open lift. To this day the lift and the path have lost none of their attraction. It whisks passengers 153 meters up to the summit of the Hammetschwand in less than one minute. It was regarded as a pioneering feat in those days.

The elevator entrance, the engine room and the first 14 meters of this pit are completely on the inside of the mountain, while during the next 30 meters it elevates with a full view of the Lake of Lucerne. The whole trip lasts approximately 50 seconds. At the top station of Hammetschwand (1132 meters a.s.l.), there are breathtaking views of the Lake of Lucerne and the Alps. *Internet*