

A photograph showing a red pulley system suspended from a cable, connected to a white and grey mechanical device mounted on a large metal pipe. The device is spraying a fine mist of water. The background shows a snowy, rocky landscape under a clear sky. A blue diagonal graphic element is overlaid on the right side of the image.

# MEDIA REPORT

## Innovation from the Himalayas is supposed to save glaciers

**11. February 2021 - In the Engadin (CH), the test system went into operation on Thursday, which is intended to slow down the melting of the Morteratsch Glacier in Switzerland. A technique from the Himalayan region is also used.**

Another milestone in glacier maintenance has been set with the first snow rope and ice stupa test facility. Thanks to the Swiss innovation, the melting of the glaciers will soon be slowed down by around 50 years. „As long as there is snow on the ice, it is protected,“ explains project manager Felix Keller, glaciologist and expert on snow and permafrost. Snow reflects the incoming sunlight and insulates against warm summer temperatures.

The possible protection of the glaciers is based on the idea of meltwater recycling. The meltwater that occurs in summer is collected high up in order to recycle it in the form of snow and give it back to the glacier in winter. Conventional snowmaking systems with lances could not be used due to the moving ground on the glacier. In cooperation with the specialists Bächler Top Track AG (global supplier of innovative snow-making systems) and Bartholet Maschinenbau AG (leading company in the area of cable car systems), the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences has developed a snow rope with five nozzles.

A research group is now carrying out various tests at the Diavolezza valley station. In addition to the snow rope, an ice stupa is also in use. The artificially created ice hill for storing melt water were invented in the Himalayan region of India and are used there for irrigation in dry spring.

If everything goes according to plan, another system could be installed on the Corvatsch Glacier (CH) next winter.

