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83 Years Ago at Askala

Eighty-three years ago, construction of the Askala power plant building was well underway, as shown in the accompanying photograph taken on 9 November 1935. At its busiest, the Askala power plant construction site employed as many as 200 workers at the same time.



Photo: Electrical Museum photo collection.

The power plant and the dam visible in the background of the photograph were built on a remarkably tight schedule. The decision to construct the plant was made by the board of Lounais-Suomen Sähkösakeyhtiö at the end of February 1935, and just over a year later, on 8 April 1936, electricity generated at Askala was fed into the company's grid for the first time.

The plant's generator was ordered from Asea, while the Kaplan turbine was supplied by Tampereen Pellava- ja Rautateollisuus Oy. In fact, the plant would have been completed even sooner had the delivery of the generator not been delayed. The company was eager to complete the project quickly, as demand for electricity had grown rapidly following the end of the economic depression.