

## **Next Energy: quest to find future talent, only a few days left to apply**

- *Recent graduates can put themselves forward until 08 November, while innovators and start-uppers have until the 22 November*
- *The joint initiative of Terna, Cariplo Factory and the Cariplo Foundation to boost employment and entrepreneurship amongst young people in the energy sector is underway.*

**Rome, 27 October 2017** – Recent graduates have until 08 November and teams of innovators and start-uppers have until 22 November to apply to Next Energy, to start a course which will continue until approximately summer 2018. After the great success of last year (more than 200 applications received, 15 recent graduates selected, 9 interns hired by the company and 4 start-ups who now collaborate with Terna) the initiative which is promoted by Terna and the Cariplo Foundation and put into practice by Cariplo Factory is once again launching the energy challenge for young Italian talent. The idea for Next Energy was born from the desire to promote and support the growth of innovative ideas and projects, creating employment opportunities for young people in the electricity sector.

The concrete programme is fitting with an influential company such as Terna, which plays an infrastructural and strategic role in the running of the country. It is the only one of its kind in Italy which is aimed towards a vast range of young people: from individual recent graduates to teams of innovators to more mature start-ups. There are two new features of this year's version of the initiative: the first is Call for Growth, dedicated to more consolidated start-ups already capable of taking on market challenges, in order to open a new Open Innovation channel which helps successful applicants operate more efficiently than less well-structured start-ups. The second is the offer of fast-track opportunities available across the whole of Italy, thanks to Cariplo Factory and a network which comprises the best Italian incubators. This means that the selected start-ups can be guided in a more efficient manner by the structure most suited to their technological innovation.

A reminder about the various types of applicants welcomed by Next Energy: First of all, recent graduates younger than 28 years old who have completed a Master's degree in Electrical, Electronic or Mechanical Engineering or Engineering Management within the last year (**Call for Talent**). 10 of these recent graduates will be selected for a six-month internship with Terna. Next, are teams of innovators, with at least one member younger than 35 (**Call for Ideas**). 10 of these will be selected for a business-empowerment and fast-track programme lasting a maximum of three months. The project with the most potential will win a € 50,000 voucher to put towards services designed to further develop its business prospects. Finally, start-ups operating in the EU which have investments totalling at least € 50,000; have developed a client portfolio or have positively tested at least one prototype of marketable product/service; and are founded on initiatives or technologies with a TRL - Technology Readiness Level - of between 5–8. (**Call for Growth**). A maximum of 5 start-ups will be accepted into growITup, Cariplo Factory's open-innovation platform, with the aim of defining potential areas of synergy with Terna and a pilot project for testing.

To find out more about Next Energy, including how to participate, visit [\*\*nextenergy.cariplofactory.it\*\*](http://nextenergy.cariplofactory.it).