

Green revolution for the Isle of Capri: more renewable energy and zero emissions

## TERNA CONNECTS CAPRI TO THE MAINLAND

*Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, CEO Stefano Donnarumma and local authorities inaugurate a landmark project for the south of Italy and the country*

*150 million euro of investment for the link with Sorrento and Torre Annunziata: a cutting-edge project with significant benefits for the environment and the quality, efficiency and reliability of the local electricity system*

*Renewed commitment to sustainability thanks to undersea cables and an innovative substation fully integrated with the surrounding landscape*

**Capri, 14 October 2020** – Today, in the presence of Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, local authorities and Terna CEO Stefano Donnarumma, **Terna's new power line connecting Capri to the mainland** was officially opened. Terna, the company that manages Italy's high and extra high voltage electricity grid, has **invested a total of 150 million euro** to complete a technologically advanced project able to **supply Capri with renewable energy and eliminate polluting emissions** thanks to the decommission of the current diesel generator plant located on the island, contemporaneously **increasing the island's safety**.

*“The project we are opening today is a historic one: it will reduce polluting emissions and increase the safety of the electricity system on the Isle of Capri, a globally recognised symbol of natural beauty. The project involved a successful collaboration between the public and private sectors and is a testament to Terna’s fundamental role in the energy transition. Our investments to make the system more reliable, more efficient and greener can make a tangible contribution to Italy’s economic recovery”* stated Terna CEO and General Manager, **Stefano Donnarumma**.

The new ‘Capri-Sorrento’ undersea power line is 19 km long and completes the 160MW electricity link, the first section of which connects the island to Torre Annunziata and was completed in 2017.

Placed entirely undersea or underground and thus completely invisible to the eye, the new power line will increase the quality, reliability and efficiency of the local electricity system, with **significant benefits for the community**, both **environmentally**, through the supply of renewable energy produced on the mainland and the decommission of the diesel generator plant on the island, and **economically**. Thanks to the new connection, Capri will, in effect, join the Italian national grid, with **annual savings for the community and the electricity system in the region of 20 million euro** and a reduction of 130,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> each year.

The entry into operation of the 'Capri-Sorrento' line is part of the broader project to restructure the electricity grid in the Sorrento Peninsula, enabling Terna to **dismantle almost 60 km** of old and obsolete power lines, **freeing up valuable land in an area with great entrepreneurial potential**.

In line with Terna's increasing focus on the environment, the work has been carried out using technologies with a low environmental impact: the laying of undersea cables, at a depth of over 100 metres, was conducted using specific engineering methods (including a technique known as 'directional drilling' at the landing points for the housing of the cable conduits), minimising interference with the marine ecosystems and preserving the *Posidonia oceanica* meadows along the coast, leaving habitats untouched while also protecting the electricity connection. In accordance with the Ministry of the Environment, Terna will also carry out continuous environmental monitoring of the project even after its completion, making the data and analyses conducted available to institutions.

The Capri electrical substation is a globally unique example of innovative electricity infrastructure design. Built over an area of around 2,700 square metres around the Ecological Zone of Gasto, the plant receives and distributes the electricity required to serve the island of Capri and is the result of an international competition launched by Terna and awarded to Frigerio Design Group, involving the adoption of several innovative solutions to effectively integrate the building into the beautiful natural environment that characterises the area. The work is one of nine projects shortlisted in the *Production* category for *The Plan Award 2020* for international excellence in architecture. Both the geometry and the colours of the work were inspired by the location. The layout of the plant was designed considering the orography of the area, using the limestone cliffs as outer walls or buildings, while the vegetation growing naturally in the gaps helps to mitigate the scale of the buildings.

The works to install the foundations of the Sorrento substation also enabled the rediscovery of a Roman necropolis composed of 49 tombs distributed across three levels. The discovery was of particular interest to the Environmental Heritage Superintendent, which appreciated the care and attention with which Terna conducted the archaeological works.

Finally, in collaboration with the management of Campania's Museum Complex and thanks to an agreement with the Italian Ministry of Cultural Assets and Activities and Tourism, Terna will artistically light the historic Villa Jovis, the former residence of Roman Emperor Tiberius Julius Caesar Augustus located 334 metres above sea level on the eastern promontory of the island, shedding new light on a highly significant archaeological site.