

## **TERNA, TYRRHENIAN LINK: THE EAST SECTION, CONNECTING CAMPANIA AND SICILY, AUTHORISED BY THE ITALIAN MINISTRY OF ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION**

**The project, in which Terna will invest approximately €3.7 billion, will allow for the better integration of renewable sources, an important boost to the energy transition**

**The section will be up and running in 2025**

**Rome, 4 October 2022** – The decree authorising work on the “Tyrrhenian Link – East Branch”, the section of Terna’s undersea cable connecting Campania and Sicily, has been signed by the Italian Ministry of Ecological Transition.

In light of the strategic importance of the Tyrrhenian Link, which is one of Italy’s main infrastructural works and crucial to the development and security of its electricity system, the authorisation process was completed in record time: in fact, it took just 11 months from the start of the procedure to the definitive approval of the project by MiTE. This was made possible thanks to the intense work of participatory planning carried out in advance of the authorisation process with all local bodies and with citizens.

Terna will invest around €3.7 billion in the project over the coming years, involving approximately 250 companies in the work. The new infrastructure will allow for greater integration between the different market zones and more effective use of the ever increasing flow of energy from renewable sources. The Tyrrhenian Link will also play a decisive role in improving the reliability of both the grid and the electricity system overall, contributing to its security and adequacy.

*“Authorisation from the Ministry of Ecological Transition is a fundamental step towards the completion of a project which is of primary importance for the entire Italian electricity system,” declared Stefano Donnarumma, Terna’s Chief Executive Officer. “This infrastructure will allow an acceleration in the development of renewable sources, which are now more vital than ever to our country’s energy independence and to reducing the cost of energy bills. The speed with which this step of the process was completed confirms the determination that exists to achieve this common goal”.*

The new interconnection is a cutting-edge project that involves the construction of two undersea power lines (one from Campania to Sicily and one from Sicily to Sardinia) for a total of 950 km of 1000 MW direct current connection. The 480-kilometre long East section connects the Sicilian landing point of Fiumetorto, in the Municipality of Termini Imerese in the province of Palermo, with Torre Tuscia Magazzeno, located in the Municipality of Battipaglia in the province of Salerno.

The landing point for the underwater cables will be carried out using the horizontal directional drilling technique, which makes it possible to avoid open excavations on the beaches.

The authorised project envisages the creation of a converter substation in Eboli in Campania (in the area of the former fruit and vegetable market), connected to the Torre Tuscia Magazzeno landing point by a 15-km underground cable that will run along existing road routes without altering the environment or landscape. The switching station will also be built in Eboli: thanks to Terna's targeted technological decision (the substation will feature GIS) it will be possible to use half of the surface area initially required by the project.

In Sicily, on the other hand, the converter substation will be located in Termini Imerese, in the Caracoli area, and will be connected to the Fiumetorto landing point with approximately 10 km of underground cable. In addition, a new 380 kV section will be built within the existing substation in Caracoli.

The work will be fully operational in 2028, but the first cable – related to the East Branch – will be up and running in late 2025.