PRESS
RELEASE

Media Relations
Ph. +39 06 83139081
Fax +39 06 83138372
e-mail: ufficio.stampa@terna.it

TERNA, TYRRHENIAN LINK: SELARGIUS, IN THE PROVINCE OF CAGLIARI, CONFIRMED AS THE SITE OF THE CONVERTER SUBSTATION

The converter substation, which will enable integration into the national transmission grid, will be constructed near the existing electrical substation

An application will be made by the end of the month for authorisation for the construction of the West Section, which will connect Sardinia and Sicily

The project, in which Terna will invest approximately €3.7 billion, will allow for the better integration of renewable sources, enabling the decarbonisation process of the regional electricity grid

Rome, 13 April 2022 – Terna, the Italian national grid operator, has announced — during the course of a virtual meeting with the authorities, associations and citizens involved — that the converter substation for the West Section of the Tyrrhenian Link, in Sardinia, will be constructed in Selargius (Cagliari) near the existing electrical substation.

This decision, which was taken following evaluations and analyses of the comments received during the public consultation period that began in September 2021, is the result of the fruitful relationship built on discussion and dialogue between Terna and the citizens and authorities of the six municipalities of Cagliari affected by the project (Maracalagonis, Quartucciu, Quartu Sant'Elena, Selargius, Settimo San Pietro and Sinnai). This result confirms the company's commitment to enhancing, as far as possible, the needs of the territories affected by its infrastructures.

In particular, in relations to the converter substation in the municipality of Selargius, Terna's engineers investigated a variety of potential locations, finally opting for the one that best satisfied the requirements of the authorities. As part of a memorandum of understanding between the company and the local authority, this decision will enable the demolition and removal underground of two 150 kV overhead power lines, whose route currently takes them through the Municipality of Selargius and, to a lesser extent, the Municipality of Quartucciu.

Finally, the connection between the converter substation and the landing point of the undersea cable to Terra Mala will consist of an underground cable. It will run for approximately 30 km along mainly municipal and provincial roads, leaving the environment and landscape unaltered, to reach the converter substation. The latter will then be connected to the new switching station, thus enabling integration into the national transmission grid.

At the end of April, Terna will submit applications to the competent ministries seeking authorisation for construction and operation, communicating the locations chosen and confirmed for the West Section of the Tyrrhenian Link. In November 2021, meanwhile, the Italian Ministry of Ecological Transition signed off on the launch of the authorisation process for the East Section, connecting Campania and Sicily.

The construction of the Tyrrhenian Link, a strategic project for the Italian electricity system, will involve around 250 companies. The new infrastructure will allow for greater exchange capacity between the different market zones and a more effective use of the flows of energy from renewable sources. Furthermore, it will play a decisive role in improving the reliability of the grid, contributing to the safety of the electricity system and its ability to cope with the expected decommissioning of coal plants and the most obsolete fuel oil plants with a higher environmental impact.

The new interconnection is a state-of-the-art project that will involve the construction of two 1000 MW direct current undersea power lines, for a total length of 950 km. The infrastructure will be fully operational in 2028, but the first cable — related to the East Branch — will be up and running in late 2025.