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# TERNA, TYRRHENIAN LINK: AUTHORISATION PROCESS STARTED FOR THE WEST SECTION BETWEEN SICILY AND SARDINIA

## Another step towards the construction of one of the most important infrastructure projects in Italy

## The Service Conferences for the West Section project begins: converter substations to be located at Termini Imerese (Palermo) and Selargius (Cagliari)

## 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 ecological transition

**Rome, 12 October 2022** – The Ministry of Ecological Transition has formally started the authorisation procedure for the "Tyrrhenian Link - West Branch", the approximately 480 km-long section of the € 3.7 billion undersea power line project by Terna that will connect Sicily and Sardinia.

The launch of the authorisation process for the West section comes just a few days after the issue of the definitive decree by MiTE for the East section (the one connecting Campania and Sicily), and marks a decisive step towards the commencement of works in one of Italy's most important infrastructure projects aimed at ensuring the development and security of Italy's electricity system.

The infrastructure that will link Sicily and Sardinia marks an important achievement in the laying of undersea power lines: in a global first, the connection will be installed at a depth of over 2000 metres, with some sections reaching 2150 metres below sea level.

Last April, following the conclusion of the public consultation phase during which the company engaged with residents and all of the Sardinian and Sicilian administrations involved, Terna submitted the authorisation application for the construction and execution of the works to MiTE.

*"With the launch of the authorisation procedure for the west section of the Tyrrhenian link, which follows the authorisation in record time of the East Section by MiTE, we have given a further boost to the process that will lead to the construction of an essential infrastructure for Italy's electricity system",* stated Stefano Donnarumma, Terna's Chief Executive Officer. *"It is important to proceed quickly to ensure that the new infrastructure can soon be integrated into the national electricity system, prompting the development of renewable sources that currently represent the real alternative to Russian gas."*

Based on the evidence which emerged during the six "Terna Meets" events organised with the local communities and institutions of Termini Imerese (in the province of Palermo) and of Maracalagonis, Quartucciu, Quartu S. Elena, Selargius, Settimo San Pietro and Sinnai (in the province of Cagliari), potential locations have been identified for future converter substations and for the route of the

underground cables which will lead from the landing point of the undersea cable to the substations themselves.

As regards Sardinia, from the Terra Mala landing point of the undersea cable, the underground cables will run mainly along existing roads for around 30 km — leaving the environment and landscape unaltered — before arriving at Selargius, where the converter substation will be built in areas near the existing electrical substation.

In Sicily, on the other hand, the undersea cables will land at Fiumetorto. From here, the underground cables will run for around 7 km along the existing road to Termini Imerese, in Contrada Caracoli, where the converter substation will be located near the existing electrical substation.

Anyone, especially individuals affected by the works, will be able to view the project and submit any written comments to the Ministry of Ecological Transition within 30 days from the date of publication of the process launch.

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.

The new interconnection is a state-of-the-art project that will involve the construction of two 1000 MW direct current undersea power lines, one from Campania to Sicily and the other from Sicily to Sardinia, for a total length of around 970 km, of which approximately 60 km will be overland. 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.