

## **TYRRHENIAN LINK: TERNA SUBMITS A REQUEST FOR AUTHORISATION FOR THE WEST SECTION, BETWEEN SICILY AND SARDINIA, TO MITE**

**Another step taken towards the construction of the undersea connection which will link Sicily, Campania and Sardinia**

**During the public consultation stage, which began in September 2021, Terna organised six “Terna Meets” events with the local administrations and communities affected by the project**

**The invisible power line, in which Terna will invest approximately €3.7 billion, will allow for the further development of renewable sources**

**Rome, 9 May 2022** – Terna submitted a request for authorisation to construct and operate the West Section of the Tyrrhenian Link, which will connect Sicily and Sardinia, to the Italian Ministry of Ecological Transition (MiTE). This is another important step towards the completion of the project, following the initiation of the authorisation process for the route between Sicily and Campania (the East Branch) in November 2021.

Following the submission of the application to MiTE, the preliminary and decision-making service conferences will be held over the coming weeks. During these, the outcomes of the public consultation and the opinions on conformity expressed by the responsible bodies will be respectively assessed.

The Ministry’s definitive authorisation decree, following which Terna will be able to begin work, is expected by mid-2023.

The company led by Stefano Donnarumma began the public consultation stage for the West Section of the Tyrrhenian Link in September 2021. 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 to Termini Imerese, in Contrada Caracoli, where the converter substation will be located near the existing electrical substation.

The participatory planning process which Terna has now adopted for several years allows all affected parties — municipal and regional administrations, trade associations and local authorities, citizens and businesses — to be actively and publicly involved from the very earliest stages of deciding on and planning development works for the national electricity grid. Despite the organisational difficulties caused by the pandemic, the company persevered in the process of dialogue and consultation with the territories involved by means of meetings organised on digital platforms.

Between the meetings organised from September 2021 and through the pages of the website dedicated to the project ([www.terna.it/en/projects/public-engagement/Tyrrhenian-link](http://www.terna.it/en/projects/public-engagement/Tyrrhenian-link)) over 10,000 people were reached, with peaks on the days when the meetings took place and when the press releases were issued.

The Tyrrhenian Link, a strategic project for the Italian electricity system in which Terna will invest approximately €3.7 billion, 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 the greatest 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, one from Campania to Sicily and the other from Sicily to Sardinia, 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.