

## **TERNA, TYRRHENIAN LINK: FRAMEWORK CONTRACTS FOR THE SUPPLY OF SUBMARINE POWER LINKS AWARDED TO PRYSMIAN AND NEXANS**

**An important step forward for the deepest submarine power link in the world, which will connect Sicily to Sardinia and Campania**

**The project, in which Terna will invest approximately € 3.7 billion, will allow for better use of renewable sources and will contribute to the process of decarbonizing the country**

**Rome, 30 November 2021** – Terna, the company that operates the Italian national transmission grid, has signed today two framework contracts for the supply and installation of submarine and underground cables related to the Tyrrhenian Link with Prysmian and Nexans (in association with Roda and Mive), leading companies in the energy cables and systems industry.

The project provides for the realization of four high-voltage direct current (HVDC) submarine cables. The East Branch, which will connect Sicily and Campania, is approximately 480 km long while the West Branch, between Sicily and Sardinia, is 470 km.

The two framework contracts have a maximum value of € 1.7 billion as regards Prysmian and € 664 million for Nexans. For Prysmian the project provides for the turn-key installation of one to three connections. Nexans will realize one connection with similar characteristics.

The cables, with total power of approximately 1000 MW, will be made with Mass Impregnated technology and voltage level +/- 500 kV, and will be equipped with double wire armour. In addition, the framework contracts provide a careful stage of engineering, the supply and installation of an electrode system, optical links and land civil works. Moreover, to reduce the interference with the areas where submarine cables will land, controlled horizontal drilling operations will be realized during the execution phase.

The new interconnection is a leading-edge project that, apart from being the longest electrical infrastructure ever made in Italy, will also achieve the world record for depth of laying submarine cables, which will be at approximately 2,000 meters below sea level.

The submarine cable laying operations will be done by Prysmian and Nexans, while for the land cable laying activities Italian companies of the Terna qualified segments will be involved. Despite the global supply chains that the project will activate, more than 60% of the value of the work will benefit specialized Italian companies and businesses.

The Tyrrhenian Link is a strategic project for the Italian electricity system in which the company led by Stefano Donnarumma will invest approximately € 3.7 billion over the next few years, involving around 250 companies. 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 the safety and adequacy of the electricity system to cope with the expected decommissioning of coal plants and the most obsolete plants with a higher environmental impact, also allowing for the reduction of energy and dispatching service costs.

At the beginning of November, the formal launch of the authorization procedure of the East Branch was signed by the Ministry of Ecological Transition. The complete work will be fully operational in 2028, but the first of the two cables of the East Branch will be up and running in late 2025.