

TERNA: MONITORING OF OVER 1250 KM OF THE ELECTRICITY GRID IN MARCHE COMPLETED

77 power lines inspected in just 5 days

Around €50 million invested in monitoring and maintaining the Italian electricity grid every year

Rome, 25 August 2022 – Terna has completed its monitoring activities of the overhead electricity grid in the Marche region. In just 5 days, using helicopters from the company fleet, over 1,250 km of overhead lines were inspected in the provinces of Ancona, Ascoli Piceno, Fermo, Macerata and Pesaro-Urbino for a total of 77 power lines of 70, 150, 220 and 380 kV.

Continuous monitoring of its assets is a priority for Italy's grid operator, which invests a total of around €50 million in this activity every year.

Aerial inspections make it possible to verify whether there are any anomalies on conductors and pylons, in order to ensure total efficiency of the service, allowing the company to analyse around 240 km of lines per day, as opposed to 15 km for ground level inspections, which nonetheless remain an essential tool for the detection of anomalies that cannot be detected from above. By the end of 2022, Terna will have carried out overflights and inspections on more than 44,000 km of high-voltage power lines with infra-red technology, carrying out a complete analysis of the regional grid.

In order to perform these monitoring activities, the company has seven helicopters equipped with cutting-edge technology that allows for real-time viewing of data. Furthermore, once the aerial inspections are complete the data is then analysed and processed using a DSS (Decision Support System) IT system which provides proactive support to the plant maintenance decision-making process, proposing inspections, maintenance works and asset replacements according to schedules that follow an established policy.

In order to manage this highly technological equipment, dozens of professionals from Terna's Plant Units located throughout Italy underwent a period of training at the company's training centre - purpose-built with all the equipment needed for the various simulations on board the helicopter - obtaining the qualification of "helicopter inspection specialist" upon completion.