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TERNA: €105 MILLION IN INVESTMENTS FOR THE NEW UNDERSEA ELECTRICITY CONNECTION BETWEEN SICILY AND CALABRIA

The Italian Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security has begun the approval process for the 'Bolano-Annunziata' infrastructure

The project is part of the Development Plan for the Italian electricity transmission grid and will make it possible to increase the exchange capacity between the island and the mainland up to 2000 MW, favouring renewables

Rome, 10 January 2023 - The Italian Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security has begun the approval process for the 'Bolano-Annunziata', Terna's new electricity infrastructure that will connect Sicily with Calabria. To complete the project — which is strategic for the entire Italian electricity system — the company, led by Stefano Donnarumma, will invest €105 million.

The 380 kV AC infrastructure, part of Terna's ten-year Development Plan for the Italian transmission electricity grid, will make it possible to increase the total electricity exchange capacity between the island and the mainland up to 2000 MW, favouring the development of renewable sources planned in Southern Italy. It will also help improve the grid's meshing and operational flexibility, making the electricity systems of Southern Italy and Sicily even more secure.

The project will have several phases. The main phase will consist of laying around 7.5 km of undersea power cables to connect the Bolano (Reggio Calabria province) and Annunziata (Messina province) electrical substations. This power line will also have a fibre-optic connection for data transmission. Additionally, Terna will create two underground power lines. The first, about 3 km long, will start at the Sicilian landing site and end at the Annunziata substation. The second, about 500 meters long, will make its way from the Calabrian landing site to the Bolano substation. Terna will adapt the latter by creating a new 380 kV section installed inside a newly constructed building. The entire adaptation will take place in areas near the current plant and will involve the communities of Reggio Calabria and Villa San Giovanni.

Sicily and Calabria are currently connected by two 380 kV power lines, the 'Sorgente-Rizziconi' connection (between Scilla and Villafranca), which became operational in 2016, and the 'Bolano-Paradiso' line, dating back to the 1980s. For this second infrastructure, in the summer of 2022, Terna started the work to update the aboveground section, located within Messina's municipal area.