Terna Driving Energy

PRESS RELEASE

Media Relations
Ph. +39 06 83139081
Fax +39 06 83138372
e-mail: ufficio.stampa@terna.it

TERNA: SUBMARINE CABLE INSTALLATION BEGINS FOR THE POWER LINK BETWEEN CALABRIA AND SICILY

The "Bolano-Annunziata" electricity interconnection will increase transmission capacity between Sicily and mainland Italy to up to 2,000 MW

For the first time on Italy's National Transmission Grid, 380 kV AC submarine cables with XLPE insulation will be used

The submarine cables will be installed by Prysmian's Leonardo da Vinci cable-laying vessel

Rome, 26 October 2026 – Terna, the company led by Chief Executive Officer and General Manager Pasqualino Monti, has begun installation activities for the submarine cables of the "Bolano-Annunziata" power link, the 380 kV alternating-current electricity interconnection between Sicily and Calabria. The activities have been entrusted to Prysmian, which is responsible for both cable production and installation using the Leonardo da Vinci cable-laying vessel.

The project, which is strategic for Italy's electricity system, will increase transmission capacity between Sicily and mainland Italy to up to 2,000 MW, improving grid operational flexibility and supporting greater integration of electricity generated from renewable sources.

The project will introduce a major technological innovation: for the first time on Italy's National Transmission Grid, 380 kV alternating-current submarine cables with XLPE (cross-linked polyethylene) insulation will be installed.
The interconnection will also feature a monitoring solution supplied by Prysmian and developed at its centre of excellence in Palermo. The technology will enable the condition of the cables to be monitored, contributing to the reliability and management of the infrastructure.

Offshore activities involve the installation of three submarine cables, each approximately 7.5 km long, between the coasts of the provinces of Reggio Calabria and Messina, at a maximum depth of approximately 250 metres.

Installation of the first cable, completed in recent days, covered the section between the Bolano landing point in Calabria and the Annunziata landing point in Messina. Installation of the second cable, which follows the same offshore route, is now nearing completion. Operations will then

continue with the installation of the third cable, scheduled to be completed by early November.

The new interconnection will complement the existing power links between Calabria and Sicily, including “Sorgente-Rizziconi”, which entered into operation in 2016, and “Bolano-Paradiso”, which dates back to the 1980s. It will therefore help strengthen grid meshing and increase electricity transmission capacity between Sicily and mainland Italy.

As regards the onshore works, two underground cable connections are planned to link the submarine cable landing points to the Annunziata substation in the Municipality of Messina and the Bolano substation in the Municipality of Villa San Giovanni, both of which are currently under construction. The routes will extend for approximately 3 km on the Sicilian side and around 500 metres on the Calabrian side. Construction work is also under way on the new Annunziata substation and the extension of the Bolano substation, which will form the terminal nodes of the new interconnection.

As part of the environmental monitoring activities carried out by Terna prior to the start of offshore works, and in close coordination with the competent Superintendency, a terracotta amphora was identified and recovered approximately 1 km off the coast of Villa San Giovanni, in the province of Reggio Calabria, at a depth of 125 metres. The artefact, discovered near the route of the electricity interconnection, displays characteristics consistent with Greco-Italic amphorae produced between the 2nd and 1st centuries BC. The amphora was recovered intact and handed over to the competent Superintendency.