

Smart grid italy

Smarter grid infrastructure based on digital and interoperable solutions is essential to the success of the energy transition. The report analyses a range of enabling technologies: transmission innovation, grid-scale storage services, electric vehicles smart charging, advanced meter infrastructure and home energy management systems).

Italy's power transmitter Terna is banking on smart technologies to help it harness growing renewable energy to cut emissions, as the Paris talks put climate change high on the world's agenda, its chief executive officer said.

Terna, one of Europe's biggest independent power grids with almost 64,000 kilometres of high-tension lines, is spending more than 200 million euros to upgrade power lines with high-tech equipment and install batteries to cope with growing, but unpredictable, green energy.

Previous CEO Flavio Cattaneo started Terna's interest in battery storage in 2011 to deal with a boom in green energy triggered by generous subsidies and take advantage of better incentives for investments in efficiency projects.

As the cost of solar and wind drops, grids are struggling to cope with a surge in demand for increasingly volatile green power generated only when the sun shines or the wind blows.

Terna, which gets better returns on investments aimed at improving grid efficiency, has set up a unit called Storage Lab to help test new technologies like battery systems, where it is the European leader.

Terna, which has China's State Grid Corp as one of its leading shareholders, is working to connect around 27,000 MW of renewable energy to the grid which comes in from some 600,000 generating units, many of them small.

The batteries are located in the south and on the islands of Sicily and Sardinia to help iron out bottlenecks in the grid, smooth dispatching and get power to the industrial north-centre.

Storage systems are important in fighting climate change since clean power can be released when demand spikes, instead of switching on more polluting gas or coal power plants.

Big power generators have seen their businesses come under fire from renewables which have priority into the grid. Enel has already announced the closure of 23 power plants.

"In our new plan we will raise our overseas investments in transmission and will try to work in regions where

we already have support from top Italian players," Del Fante said.

Improve reliability, security and flexibility of the national energy system, so as to provide at least 4.000 MW the amount of energy coming from renewable sources (FER), convert to the electrification of consumables at least 1,500,000 users and open new areas in which a role could also be given to prosumers, the energy consumers-producers.

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