

2ND MALTA-SICILY CABLE LINK



The 2nd Malta-Sicily Cable Link (IC2) consists of a new 225MW HVAC electrical 122km long cable interconnection through a submarine cable operating at 220kV between Malta (Magħtab) and Sicily (Ragusa) to be laid in parallel but at a safe distance to the existing HVAC cable link which was commissioned in 2015 (IC1).

This project is part of Maltese Government's future energy strategy in meeting the 2030 climate and energy targets and the longer-term decarbonisation objectives. It aims at diversifying the island's energy

sources and meet the projected increase in electricity demand from economic growth and electrification of the transport sector.

The 2nd cable link will double the electricity interconnectivity with the EU electricity network, allow for increased importation of electricity sourced from renewables, optimise the use of local power generation, whilst enabling the increase in local renewable energy sources, including offshore RES, through the enhancement of the grid stability and balancing of intermittent RES.

Interconnect Malta Ltd. (ICM), which is the entity delegated by MEER to implement this project, has completed the preliminary marine route survey along the project's proposed subsea cable route to obtain the bathymetric, geophysical, geo-technical and environmental data required to plan the safest and most sustainable route of the submarine cable.

Last January the Planning Authority has issued the development permit covering the works required to lay and protect the land and subsea cable link between the Enemalta 132kV Magħtab Terminal Station up to the halfway line between Malta and Sicily. ICM is also collaborating with the Italian authorities to conclude the permitting processes in Italian waters and on land in Sicily.

Furthermore, ICM has finalised the engineering design to determine the specifications of the required technologies, including cables, transformers, shunt reactors, safety and protection systems that will be specified in the tender documentation. ICM is now in the process of issuing and awarding a number of Engineering, Procurement and Commissioning (EPC) tender calls for the implementation of the project, namely for the manufacture and installation of the onshore 245kV and 145kV Cables, for the supply and installation of 245kV 250MVA Auto-Transformer, 120MVA and 240MVA Variable Shunt Reactors for the Second Electrical Malta-Sicily Interconnector, for the 245kV subsea cable manufacturing, laying and protection and for the supply and installation of the 220kV Switchgear, Fire Suppression System, and Fire Walls at Ragusa.

In December 2023, the project was successfully approved for funding under the 2021-2027 ERDF Programme, specifically under Priority 2 'Promoting clean and fair energy transition, sustainable wastewater management, and green investment', Specific Objective 2.3 'Developing smart energy systems, grids, and storage outside the TEN-E network'. This project has been designated as an 'Operation of Strategic Importance' due to its significant contribution to the achievement of national priorities for the 2021-2027 Programme. The ERDF funding allocated to this project amounts to ca €165 million.



IT-TIENI KONNESSJONI BIL-KEJBIL BEJN MALTA U SQALLIJA



It-Tieni Konnessjoni bil-Kejbil bejn Malta u Sqallija (IC2) ser tkun twila madwar 122km u tikkonsisti f'kejbil taħt l-ilma bejn Malta (Magħtab) u Sqallija (Raguża) li jopera b'vultaġġ ta' 220kV u qawwa ta' 225MW HVAC u jitqiegħed biswit iżda imbiegħed b'żewġ mill-konnessjoni tal-kejbil HVAC eżistenti li kien beda jopera fl-2015 (IC1).

Dan il-proġett huwa parti mill-istrateġija futura tal-enerġija tal-Gvern Malti biex jilħaq il-miri tal-klima u tal-enerġija tal-2030 u l-oġettivi fit-tul għad-dekarbonizzazzjoni. L-għan tiegħu huwa li jiddiversifika

s-sorsi ta' enerġija tal-gżira u jissodisfa ż-żieda prevista fid-domanda tal-elettriku riżultat tat-tkabbir ekonomiku kif ukoll minħabba l-elekttrifikazzjoni meħtieġa fis-settur tat-trasport.

Din it-tieni konnessjoni ser tirdoppja il-konnessjoni elettrika man-netwerk tal-elettriku tal-UE, tippermetti iktar importazzjoni ta' elettriku minn sorsi rinnovabbli, tgħin fl-irfinar tal-użu tal-ġenerazzjoni tal-enerġija lokali, waqt li tippermetti ż-żieda fis-sorsi ta' enerġija rinnovabbli lokali, inkluż dawk iġġenerati fuq il-baħar, għax ser tgħin biex tissaħħaħ iktar il-grid u biex jitnaqqsu l-effetti negattivi tal-intermittenza tar-rinnovabbli.

Interconnect Malta Ltd. (ICM), li hija l-entità delegata mill-MEER biex timplimenta dan il-proġett, temmet l-istħarrig preliminari tar-rotta marittima tul ir-rotta proposta tal-kejbil taħt l-ilma biex tikseb l-informazzjoni marbuta mal-baħar, ġeofizika, ġeoteknika u ambjentali meħtieġa biex tippjana l-aktar rotta sigura u sostenibbli għall-kejbil.

F'Jannar li għadda, l-Awtorità tal-Ippjanar ħarget il-permess ta' żvilupp li jkopri x-xogħlijiet meħtieġa biex jitqiegħed u jiġi protett il-kejbil fuq l-art u taħt l-ilma bejn l-Istazzjon Terminali tal-Enemalta 132kV fil-Magħtab sa nofs it-triq bejn Malta u Sqallija. ICM qed tikkollabora wkoll mal-awtoritajiet Taljani biex tikkonkludi l-proċessi ta' permessi fl-ibħra Taljani u fuq l-art fi Sqallija.

Barra minn hekk, ICM iffinalizzat id-disinn tal-inginerija biex tiddetermina l-esigenzi tekniċi meħtieġa, inklużi id-daqs tal-kejbils, transformers, shunt reactors, sistemi ta' sigurtà u protezzjoni li se jiġu mitluba fid-dokumentazzjoni tas-sejnhiet għall-offerti li ser jinħargu fix-xhur li ġejjin. Fil-fatt ser jinħargu numru ta' sejnhiet għall-offerti għall-inginerija, l-akkwist u l-ikkommissjonar (Engineering Procurement and Commissioning - EPC) marbuta mal-implimentazzjoni tal-proġett, jiġifieri għall-manifattura u l-installazzjoni tal-kejbils ta' taħt l-art 245kV u 145kV, għall-provvista u l-installazzjoni ta' 245kV 250MVA Auto-Transformer, 120MVA u 240MVA Variable Shunt Reactors, għall-manifattura, tqegħid u protezzjoni tal-kejbil ta' taħt l-ilma 245kV u għall-provvista u l-installazzjoni tal-220kV Switchgear, Fire Suppression System, u Fire Walls f'Raguża.

F'Diċembru 2023, il-proġett kien approvat b'suċċess għall-finanzjament taħt il-Programm ERDF 2021-2027, speċifikament taħt Prijorità Tnejn 'Promozzjoni ta' transizzjoni tal-enerġija nadifa u ġusta, ġestjoni sostenibbli tal-ilma mormi, u investiment aħdar', Oġettiv Speċifiku 2.3 'Żvilupp ta' sistemi tal-enerġija intelligenti, grids, u hażna barra min-netwerk TEN-E'. Dan il-proġett gie ddikjarat bħala 'Operat ta' Importanza Strateġika' minħabba l-kontribut sinifikanti tiegħu għall-kisba tal-prijoritajiet nazzjonali għall-Programm 2021-2027. Il-finanzjament tal-ERDF allokat għal dan il-proġett jammonta għal madwar €165 miljun.

