



## PRESS RELEASE

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## ENEL INAUGURATES CATANIA'S 'INNOVATION HUB & LAB' FOR OPEN INNOVATION IN THE FIELD OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

- *The 100,000 square metre technology campus aims to stimulate research and innovation in the renewable energy sector, hosting start-ups, SMEs and other national and international companies to collaborate through industrial partnerships*
- *The facility's laboratories will also focus on new digital technologies, including IoT, big data, automation, artificial intelligence and augmented reality, as well as maintaining a strong orientation towards experimenting with 'disruptive' systems for the energy field*
- *The Catania Centre is optimally integrated with the network of Innovation Hubs Enel has set up in the areas of the world with the highest rate of innovation*

**Catania, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018** – Research and development of innovative solutions in the energy field, focusing in particular on renewable energy. With this objective in mind, Enel created its new 'Innovation Hub & Lab' in Passo Martino, in the province of Catania. It is a 100,000 square metre complex with latest-generation laboratories, ready to host start-ups, small and medium-sized enterprises and other national and foreign companies, as well as world-class research centres. The technologically cutting-edge facility was inaugurated today, with Salvo Pogliese, the Mayor of Catania, Antonio Cammisecra, Head of Enel Green Power (EGP), Enel's Global Renewable Energy Division, and Ernesto Ciorra, Enel's Head of Innovability (Innovation and Sustainability) in attendance.

The 'Innovation Hub & Lab' in Catania will work not only on the development and advanced experimentation of solar energy generation technologies, but also on the development of disruptive solutions in the energy field with particular focus on the use of new technologies such as IoT (Internet of things), big data, automation and artificial intelligence, augmented reality; in line with Enel Group's Open Power philosophy, it will do so by forging on-going collaborations with start-ups and SMEs to lead to industrial partnerships. The most promising companies, selected at local, national and international level, will have the opportunity to test their solutions at the Passo Martino complex, supported by highly specialized Enel personnel and using the Centre's accredited laboratories, experimenting with innovative technologies especially in the field of renewable sources, such as solar, thermal and photovoltaic, micro-grids, storage and wind, with indoor and outdoor testing.

The start-ups and SMEs will be chosen through special calls published on Enel's crowdsourcing platform (<https://openinnovability.enel.com>) or through direct scouting throughout the company's network of relationships in Italy and abroad. The Catania Centre is optimally integrated with the network of Innovation Hubs Enel has set up in the areas of the world with the highest rate of innovation (to date: Madrid, Moscow, Rio de Janeiro, Santiago de Chile, Tel Aviv, and San Francisco) and offers access to a unique wealth of know-how, expertise, data, mentorship and support in raising capital, both through Enel's venture capital partner funds and through banks as well as public financing.