

APOLLO-LINK Media Kit

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Press Contact

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APOLLO-LINK Italy-Spain HVDC Interconnector

APOLLO-LINK is a 2 GW high-voltage direct current (HVDC) submarine interconnection between Spain and Italy that will strengthen cross-border electricity market integration, reduce household electricity bills in both countries, lower the risk of major blackouts, and support Europe’s clean-energy transition, with no impact to public budgets.

Key Facts at a Glance

Capacity	2,000 MW (2 GW)
Technology	525 kV VSC-HVDC
Target Commercial Operation Date (COD)	2032
Total Investment (CAPEX)	~€3.1 billion (100% private) (TYNDP 2024)
Developer	APOLLO-LINK Development & Operations Srl
EU Recognition	ENTSO-E TYNDP 2024
European Ranking (TYNDP 2024)	#6 overall · #1 among comparable projects in terms of socio-economic welfare (SEW)

The Challenge: Europe’s Grid Is the Bottleneck

The European Union has set legally binding targets to reach climate neutrality by 2050. Spain and Italy both face the consequences of insufficient cross-border electricity connectivity: excess renewable generation that cannot reach markets where it is needed, and costly fossil-fuel generation that clean alternatives could replace.

The European Commission estimates €584 billion in grid investments are needed this decade alone. ENTSO-E has identified a specific interconnection need of up to 2 GW on the Spain–Italy corridor, confirmed by its post-2030 System Needs Study.

APOLLO-LINK is built to close that gap.

The Solution: APOLLO-LINK

APOLLO-LINK will establish the first direct bidding zone border between Spain and Italy. A 525 kV HVDC submarine cable running approximately 880 km through the Mediterranean Sea. Planned connection points are the Vandellòs substation (near Tarragona) and Marginone substation, Italy, transmitting up to 2 GW in either direction. The project is developed by APOLLO-LINK Development & Operations Srl, which is an independent energy infrastructure company founded by a team of European electricity markets & regulatory experts, lawyers, and engineers. The established operating company will become a certified TSO and operate under a fully regulated model supervised by Spain's CNMC and Italy's ARERA. The actual investment costs are entirely funded by private European capital with no burden on public budgets and expected to reduce grid tariffs for Italy and Spain's consumers.

“Both Spain and Italy will benefit from deeper electricity market integration. APOLLO-LINK reduces renewable curtailment, displaces gas-fired generation, and delivers lower electricity costs for consumers on both sides of the Mediterranean.”

— Dr. Lutz Landwehr, Co-CEO, APOLLO-LINK Development & Operations Srl

“Modern VSC-HVDC technology delivers grid services that extend far beyond energy transmission: inertia response, instantaneous reactive power support, and black-start capability. As renewable penetration increases across Europe, these functions become as valuable as the megawatts transferred. APOLLO-LINK is engineered to provide both.”

— Dr. Wolfgang Hribernik, Co-CEO, APOLLO-LINK Development & Operations Srl

Benefits for Spain, Italy, and the wider European Energy System

APOLLO-LINK directly supports Spanish and Italian national energy strategies and decarbonization objectives. The project delivers measurable, lasting benefits across security, economy, and environment.

Security

- **+25% stronger electricity supply security.** Firm import/export capacity diversifies supply routes, and cuts shortfall risk by roughly a quarter. The project provides the Iberian Peninsula with an alternative to France's interconnections, while reducing Italy's dependence on a reduced number of supply sources.
- **–45% lower likelihood of a major blackout.** VSC-HVDC grid-forming controls provide fast frequency response, reactive power support, and black-start capability turn the interconnector into a state-of-the-art shock absorber. This sharply reduces cascading outage risk, strengthening Spanish and Italian transmission system as renewable penetration increases.
- **Strengthened East–West electricity connectivity in the EU,** enabling both countries to make better use of their respective energy resources and jointly reduce reliance on fossil-fuel generation.

Environment

- **7 TWh/year of renewable curtailment avoided.** Excess renewable generation is transmitted across the corridor instead of being curtailed (TYNDP 2024).
- **2.6 million tons of CO₂ avoided per year.** Cross-border renewable flows displace gas-fired generation along the corridor, cutting carbon emissions and supporting national decarbonization targets (TYNDP 2024).

Economy

- **€880 million/year** in socio-economic welfare by 2040 (ENTSO-E Cost-Benefit Analysis, TYNDP 2024 National Trends scenario).
- **€385 million/year in distributable surplus.** Congestion income, projected at €385 million per year by 2040 and split between Spain and Italy, is returned to network users via lower tariffs under EU Regulation 2019/943.
- **Lower household electricity bills.** Increasing market integration between Spain and Italy while distributing congestion surplus back to consumers reduces electricity tariffs for households.
- **Reduced fossil fuel import exposure.** Lower reliance on gas-fired generation reduces vulnerability to LNG and pipeline gas price volatility, providing a more stable electricity cost base for industry and households.
- **+10,000 jobs created.** Development, construction, and operations generate more than 10,000 jobs. These roles support the clean-energy transition and regional employment.

Why VSC-HVDC Matters

Unlike conventional AC links, VSC technology allows independent control of active and reactive power. This gives APOLLO-LINK capabilities that extend well beyond simple electricity transfer: voltage regulation, black-start capability (restoring the grid after a blackout without an external power source), fast frequency response, and cross-border balancing services. The interconnector functions as an active grid stabilizer, providing system services that no conventional cable can deliver.

APOLLO-LINK is a Fully Regulated, Privately Financed Infrastructure Project

APOLLO-LINK will operate under a fully regulated model supervised by Spain's CNMC and Italy's ARERA. The project generates congestion income from the price spread between Spain and Italy's electricity markets. After covering OPEX, depreciation, interest, return on equity, and taxes, the remaining surplus, projected at €385 million per year by 2040, is distributed back to network operators and consumers under the EU framework, reducing network tariffs.

CAPEX figures are in real 2023 Euros as established in ENTSO-E's TYNDP 2024 (Updated figures will be published in 2027 through ENTSO-E's TYNDP 2026 cycle).

Regulatory & Market Standing

APOLLO-LINK has already achieved significant regulatory recognition:

- **ENTSO-E TYNDP 2024.** Included in Europe’s official Ten-Year Network Development Plan. ENTSO-E’s independent Cost-Benefit Analysis validated the project’s socio-economic welfare contribution
- **Italian national grid plan.** Included in Italy’s national grid development plan (Terna) as of Q1 2025
- **EU regulatory framework.** Operates under Regulation EU 2019/943, which established the legal basis for privately developed and regulated interconnectors
- **ENTSO-E System Needs Study.** Confirms specific interconnection need of up to 2 GW on the Spain–Italy corridor, post-2030

European Ranking (TYNDP 2024)

Among all interconnector projects in the TYNDP, APOLLO-LINK ranks **6th in total socio-economic welfare (SEW)**, putting it ahead of significantly more expensive projects. Among regionally close and technically comparable projects (Biscay Gulf, North Tyrrhenian Corridor, Medlink, Aragón-Atlantic Pyrenees), **APOLLO-LINK ranks first.**

About APOLLO-LINK Development & Operations Srl

APOLLO-LINK Development & Operations Srl is an independent cross-border electricity infrastructure company headquartered in Rome, Italy.

The company is a subsidiary of EUROPA-LINK Development GmbH, which mission is to accelerate European energy market integration by identifying, developing, and financing the interconnectors Europe’s energy transition requires. EUROPA-LINK Development GmbH works with a partner network spanning global equipment manufacturers, universities in Germany, Austria, Spain, and Italy, digital technology providers, and regional industry associations.

Boilerplate (for press use)

About APOLLO-LINK: APOLLO-LINK is a 2 GW, 525 kV HVDC submarine electricity interconnection between Spain and Italy, developed by APOLLO-LINK Development & Operations Srl. Included in ENTSO-E’s TYNDP 2024 and ranked #1 among comparable European peer projects by socio-economic welfare, the project is targeted for commercial operation in 2032. APOLLO-LINK is entirely funded by private European capital and will operate as a certified TSO under a fully regulated model overseen by Spain’s CNMC and Italy’s ARERA. For more information, visit www.apollo-link.eu.

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