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## ENERGY: AGREEMENT BETWEEN ENEL GREEN POWER AND ENEA FOR AN INNOVATIVE AGRIVOLTAIC PILOT PLANT

- *A project integrating solar technology and microalgae cultivation to be launched at the ENEA Center in Portici (Naples)*

**Rome, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021** – Enel Green Power and ENEA have signed an agreement to test an innovative technology that combines photovoltaic electricity production with microalgae cultivation. A pilot plant will be built at the ENEA Center in Portici (Naples) to study and demonstrate how the two solar and microalgae technologies can be integrated and, in parallel, a scalability analysis will be carried out for applications on large photovoltaic plants. The trial involves cultivating microalgae with a high commercial value (between 100 and 200 euros per kilogram) with a crop system fully integrated within the photovoltaic plant.

The advantages are in producing electricity from renewable sources and valuable substances to be used in food and supplements and reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that are absorbed and transformed into biomass, added to those already avoided through photovoltaic electricity production.

**Nicola Rossi**, Enel Green Power's Head of Innovation, said: *"The partnership with ENEA is part of a broader plan to demonstrate innovative solutions that integrate agricultural and livestock production activities with our photovoltaic systems that we are carrying out with various research and agricultural partners to promote more efficient land use and identify opportunities for creating shared value with the areas and communities that host our plants. The results of these trials offer us the opportunity to identify effective activities that meet local needs in synergy with the goal of producing low-cost, emission-free energy. This is the key to making renewable generation even more sustainable in the long term."*

*"With this agreement we are launching a new possible synergy for the shared use of the land that we have identified with our 'agrovoltic' brand and this is an ideal opportunity for the agrivoltaic sector, in which we are investing significant resources to implement the guidelines in Italy's National Recovery and Resilience Plan,"* said **Ezio Terzini**, Head of the Photovoltaic and Smart Devices Division of ENEA's Renewable Energy Technologies Department. *"This is a step on the path towards the national decarbonization objectives of Italy's National Energy and Climate Plan, with a sustainable approach focused on the use of photovoltaics and the improvement of crops, the landscape and social acceptance. The agreement strengthens the multi-year partnership with Enel Green Power for photovoltaic technologies, based on a collaborative model that ENEA has in place with many industrial partners."*

The research is part of the development of innovative solutions to optimize land use related to large-scale photovoltaic systems, with various solutions for space sharing for energy generation and agricultural activities.



**Enel Green Power**, within the Enel Group, develops and operates renewable energy plants worldwide and is present in Europe, the Americas, Asia, Africa and Oceania. A world leader in clean energy, with a total installed capacity of around 49 GW and a generation mix that includes wind, solar, geothermal, and hydropower, Enel Green Power is at the forefront of integrating innovative technologies into renewable energy plants.

**ENEA** is the agency for new technologies, energy and sustainable economic development; it operates in the fields of innovation, development and transfer of innovative technologies to companies as well as the provision of advanced services to the public administration, citizens and the production system. It has 13 research centers and large laboratories across Italy with about 2,600 researchers, technologists and support staff. It is specialized in the field of renewable energy technologies, smart city and smart grids, energy storage, hydrogen, green chemistry, enabling technologies, nuclear fusion, energy efficiency, circular economy, seismic protection, food safety, pollution, life sciences, strategic raw materials, climate change. It coordinates Italy's National Energy Technology Cluster.

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