

Press Release

Italgas and I3P launch a new call for startups for the future of energy networks

The *open innovation* initiative seeks advanced solutions and technologies to continue the digital transformation of networks in support of the transition towards a zero-emission economy.

Turin, 26 May 2026 – The **Italgas** Group and the **Innovative Companies Incubator of Politecnico di Torino (I3P)** present a new initiative, entitled "[Shaping the Future of Energy Networks](#)", to explore the national and international innovation ecosystem, with the aim of gathering and analysing **advanced solutions and technologies** capable of continuing to contribute to the **digital transformation of energy infrastructures**.

Technological innovation developed by **research teams** and **young companies** is indeed an important enabling factor for the further **evolution of large infrastructures**. The new *call* launched by Italgas and I3P, within the framework of the *open innovation* programme "[Ideas 4 Italgas](#)" initiated in 2020, aims to identify project proposals capable of contributing to the **strengthening of the resilience, intelligence and security of gas and water networks**, as well as to the transition towards **zero or low-emission** energy systems, fostering digitalisation, operational efficiency, the integration of renewable gases and sustainable long-term decarbonisation models.

The **best candidate projects** will have the opportunity to engage with Italgas and the Group's subsidiaries, as well as to receive a range of potential **benefits and support** for their further development on the market. Participation in the initiative offers, in fact, the possibility of obtaining resources from Italgas to develop a **Proof-of-Concept (PoC)**, i.e. a first concrete application aimed at verifying the feasibility and effectiveness of the proposed solution in the field; but also of benefiting from **Italgas Mentorship**, to explore the possible integration of the product or service into business processes, as well as of entering one of **I3P's incubation** programmes aimed at refining the **entrepreneurial knowledge and skills** necessary for the maturation of the project, supporting the search for external funding and fostering their networking. The ultimate goal is to guide the most promising solutions towards **progressive large-scale adoption** within the Italgas Group, facilitating their validation in the sector.

The call focuses on two main areas of interest. The first is "**Resilient Grid**", solutions to **make gas and water distribution networks smarter, safer and more resilient** to external events and self-adaptive to operating conditions, through the use of both digital technologies – such as artificial intelligence (AI) and advanced sensors – and new construction methodologies. The second area, "**Energy Transition**", encompasses the optimisation of resource use and the **transition towards low-emission energy systems**, enabling the development of **decarbonisation technologies**.

The initiative is open to **working groups** and **incorporated companies**. To be eligible, candidate projects must be at one of three **stages of maturity**: "**Idea**", capable of being translated into a prototype by 2027; "**MVP**", i.e. a prototype capable of opening new market segments and opportunities; "**Products on the market**", meaning products and services already commercialised or ready for launch.

Participation in the initiative is **free of charge**: project applications, in Italian or English, must be submitted on the [Ideas 4 Italgas website](#) by the deadline of **Friday, 31 July 2026**. All *applications* received will be evaluated by October, and the final **award ceremony** for the winners will be held in Turin in November.

*"In recent years our Group has undergone a profound transformation, grounded in the digitalisation of assets, technological innovation and, of course, a concrete commitment to serving the energy transition", said **Leonardo Ambrosi, Group Innovation Officer at Italgas**. "In this context, Open Innovation has established itself not only as an enabler of development, but as a strategic driver capable of accelerating change and generating value. With this new call, we further strengthen this approach, once again opening up dialogue with the external ecosystem to capture new ideas, expertise and solutions capable of contributing to the sustainable growth of the Italgas Group."*

*"We are very pleased to have the opportunity to collaborate once again with the Italgas Group, an international organisation that has placed technological evolution and a commitment to sustainability at the heart of its strategic vision", commented **Giuseppe Scellato, President of I3P**. "This year too, as in 2021 and 2024, the open innovation initiative by Italgas and I3P will offer startups and teams of innovators a concrete opportunity for direct engagement with a major industry player, possibilities for joint experimentation and entrepreneurial growth, with the expert guidance of the incubator's specialists."*

Italgas S.p.A.

Italgas is a Network Tech Company, leader in the sectors of gas distribution, water services, energy efficiency and IT. Following the acquisition of 2i Rete Gas, its main competitor, Italgas has become the leading operator in gas distribution in Europe, managing a network of over 150,000 kilometres and more than 12 million customers in Italy and Greece. Through its subsidiaries in the water sector, the Group provides services, directly and indirectly, to 6.3 million people, equal to 10% of the Italian population, primarily in the Lazio, Sicily and Campania regions. Founded in 1837, Italgas is recognised as the company that brought gas into Italian homes, contributing significantly to the economic and social development of the country. Today Italgas is a company looking towards the future, with clear growth and development objectives. It is implementing an ambitious investment plan to expand its services and improve efficiency through digital technologies. These innovations not only optimise network management, but also prepare the gas infrastructure for the integration of renewable gases such as biomethane, synthetic methane and hydrogen.

For further information: www.italgas.it

I3P – Incubatore del Politecnico di Torino S.c.p.a.

The Innovative Companies Incubator of Politecnico di Torino (I3P) supports the creation and development of innovative startups with high technological intensity and growth potential, founded both by university researchers and students, and by external entrepreneurs, providing strategic consulting services, coaching, mentoring,



fundraising support and workspaces. Founded in 1999, I3P is a consortium company with share capital, with shareholders including the Politecnico di Torino, Fondazione LINKS, the Turin Chamber of Commerce, Finpiemonte, the Metropolitan City of Turin and Fondazione Piemonte Innova; to date it has incubated over 400 startups. I3P's mission is to support the entrepreneurship ecosystem, with the objective of generating economic development and employment in innovative industrial supply chains. I3P adopts a strategy of collaboration with institutions and private entities engaged in research and higher education, technology transfer services, innovation financing, and internationalisation towards new markets.

For further information: www.i3p.it