# The Role of Gas in the Italian Electric Sector

Paris, June 7<sup>th</sup> 2018



Founded in 1999 with the liberalization of the energy market, Sorgenia is one of the main Italian energy operators within the energy supply chain	Electricity sales: 4 TWh	Revenues: <b>1.4 EUR bn</b>
Sorgenia operates in several energy market segments:	Gas portfolio: <b>1.4 bcm</b>	EBITDA: 160 EUR mn
<ul> <li>Power generation</li> <li>Development of geothermal and mini hydro power generation</li> <li>Purchasing of natural gas</li> </ul>	Capacity installed: <b>4.4 GW</b>	Net Financial Debt: 0.715 EUR bn
<ul> <li>Energy management and trading</li> <li>Power and gas sales to end customers</li> <li>Development of energy services</li> </ul>	Customer served: ~220k	Employees: ~300



### SORGENIA GROUP POWER PLANTS



An environmentally friendly fleet, recently built and well distributed across Italy, able to fully exploit opportunities in the Italian energy market



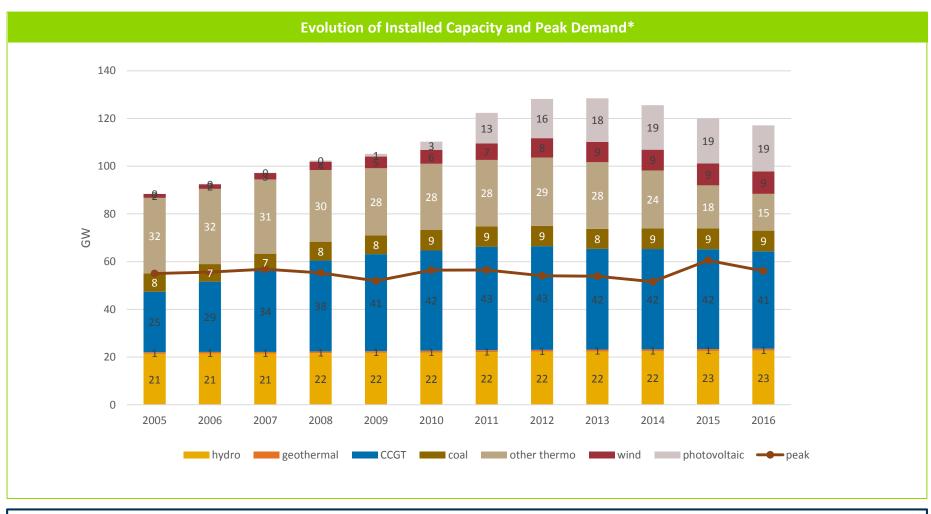
<sup>1</sup>CCGT or combined-cycle power plant uses both a gas turbine and a steam turbine together to produce more electricity from the same fuel, natural gas, than a traditional simple-cycle plant. The waste heat from the gas turbine is routed to the nearby steam turbine, which generates extra power.

### **GAS DEMAND IN ITALY**

**Evolution of Gas Demand by Sector (Bcm)\*** Gas to Power Residential ■ Industry ■ Other ● Total

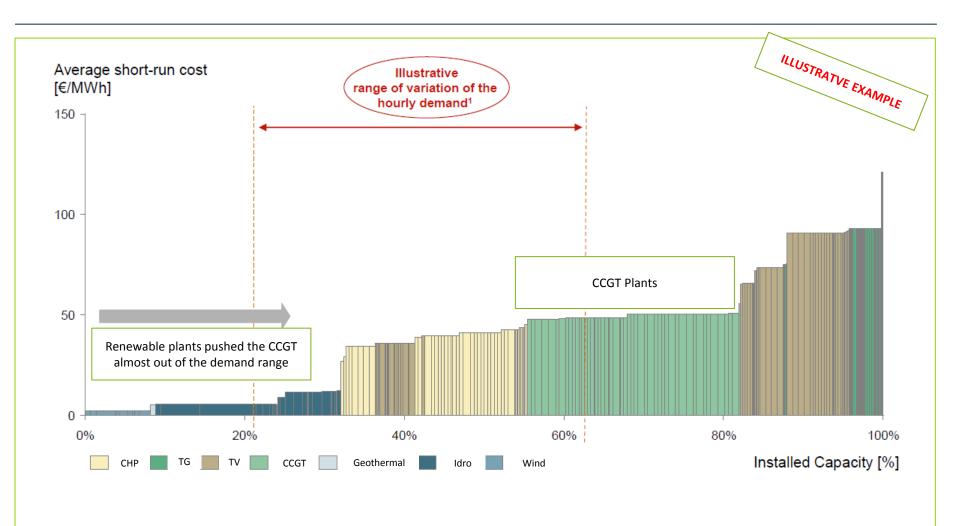
- Gas demand in Italy is driven by the thermoelectric sector
- Demand is recovering but is still approximetely 10 Bcm behind 2005-2008 peaks

## **POWER CAPACITY IN ITALY**



- Strong increase of capacty from CCGT plants from 2005 to 2010, driven by low reserve margins (difference between peak demand and available capacity)
- Strong investments in renewable plants from 2010 to 2015 mainly driven by incentives

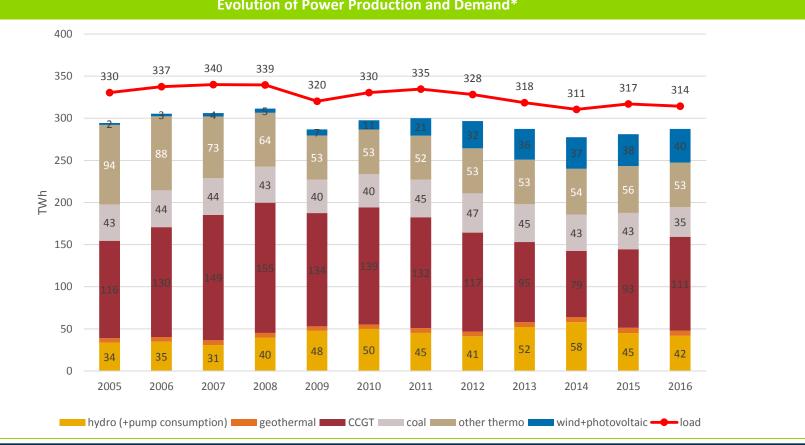
#### **MERIT ORDER OF ITALIAN POWER PLANTS**



Renewable plants pushed CCGT plants to become marginal in most of the hours whereas coal plants have not been affected



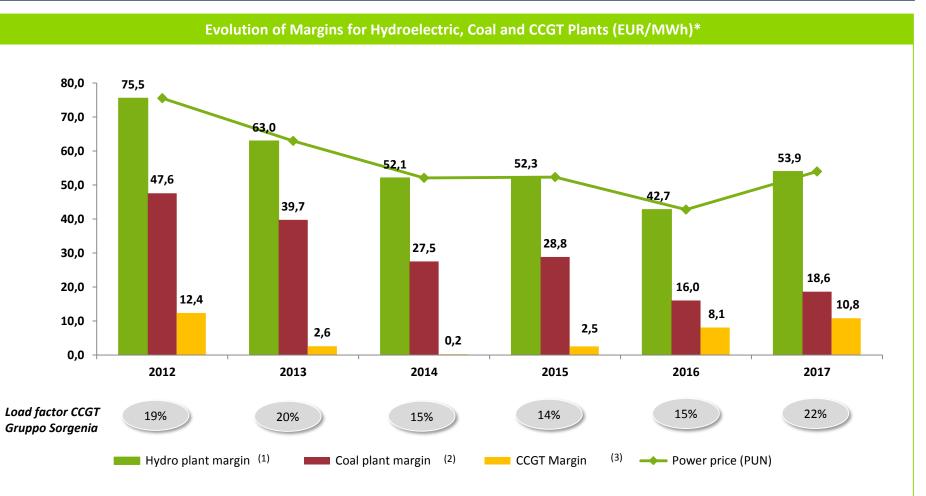
## POWER PRODUCTION IN ITALY



**Evolution of Power Production and Demand\*** 

- Power demand has been declining in the last ten years but is recently showing some signals of recovering ٠
- Wind and photovoltaic production outplaced gas production while coal production remained stable (except for 2016) ٠
- The recovery of gas in the last 2-3 years is related to the increase of demand and in 2016 to the decline of coal production and of ٠ import from France due to outages of nuclear plants

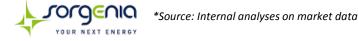
### **EVOLUTION OF POWER MARGINS**



(1) The hydro plant margin does not incorporate any variable cost and therefore it can be assumed to be equal to power price (PUN)

(2) Clean Dark Spread (CDS) =  $PUN - coal price - CO_2$  with an efficiency rate of 40%

(3) Clean Spark Spread (CSS) =  $PUN - gas price - CO_2$  with an efficiency rate of 53%



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### **ELECTRICITY MARKETS**

#### Day Ahead Energy Market (MGP)

- Energy market based on system marginal price mechanism
- Highly competitive market
  - Different prices in differet zones (Italy is split in 6 market zones)
  - Low margins except in peak demand periods
  - CCGT plants compete among themselves

#### **Ancillary Service Markets (MSD)**

- Markets in which plants sell their availability to increase or decrease their load
- Unpredictable markets which work on a pay-as-bid basis and in which demand is set by the Network Operator considering a number of factors:
  - Network constraints
  - Production of renewables
  - Demand and production profiles of plants in specific areas
- With the growth of renewable production, the MSD has become more and more attractive especially for flexible CCGT plants



#### WHAT IS GOING ON?

#### Recent changes affecting gas demand in the thermoelectric sector

- Improvement in the liquidity of the wholesale market (PSV): plants can relatively easily buy gas on a day by day basis according to their production schedule and hedge the «clean spark spread» on forward markets
- Changes in the transportation rules: tariffs are more «flexible» in line with the new «load profile» of gas plants
- Alignment of power prices with neighbour countries increased «contendible» demand for CCGT plants

#### Major changes for the future

- Development of Italy into the Southern Europe gas hub: Italy gas prices still maintain a premium on TTF prices
- Decarbonization/ Co2: phase-out of coal plants
- Capacity Market: mechanism approved by EU Commission in Februray 2018 which should stabilize the stream of revenues for existing power plants and give long term signals to new investments

