Edison MEGAWATT Award 2026

Competition for Master's Degree Students in Engineering Dedicated to Innovation in Thermoelectric Power Generation and the Energy Transition, promoted by Edison S.p.A. as part of MEGAWATT 2026

PREAMBLE

Edison S.p.A. is one of Italy's leading operators in the energy transition, with more than 5 GW of installed capacity from combined-cycle power plants. Among these facilities, two recently commissioned plants stand out as being among the most efficient worldwide. These strategic assets contribute to the conversion of natural gas into electricity, providing the flexibility required to integrate the growing share of renewable energy sources while ensuring the security and reliability of the national electricity system.

As Main Partner of **MEGAWATT – The Energy Solution Forum**, Edison S.p.A. establishes the **Edison MEGAWATT Award 2026**, an initiative aimed at students enrolled in Master's Degree programmes in Engineering, with the goal of promoting innovation, applied research, and the contribution of younger generations in the field of thermoelectric power generation and the related challenges and critical issues.

MEGAWATT is one of Europe's leading industry events dedicated to power generation, turbomachinery, and the energy transition, bringing together industrial operators, utilities, EPC contractors, technology providers, universities, and research centres to discuss the solutions that will shape the future of the energy sector. The 2026 edition will take place at the Bergamo Exhibition Centre on **18–19 November 2026**.

The event fosters discussion on the key challenges of energy system transformation, with a particular focus on power generation technologies, hydrogen, new fuels, carbon capture and storage (CCS), energy infrastructure, and innovative decarbonisation solutions.

Through this Award, Edison aims to strengthen the dialogue between universities and industry, offering students the opportunity to develop thesis proposals on strategic topics for the future of energy and to present their work in a leading international context for the sector.

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Furthermore, the initiative seeks to facilitate interaction between young talents and energy industry professionals, highlighting technical expertise, innovative capabilities, and tangible contributions to the energy transition.

Art. 1 – THE AWARD

The Award is part of the official programme of **MEGAWATT 2026**, the international exhibition and conference dedicated to the energy and power generation industries.

The Award aims to identify and promote Master's thesis proposals developed on topics identified by Edison S.p.A. The competition will take place in two stages:

- **Application phase:** the Jury will select three finalists from among all submitted applications;
- **Finalists and pitch session:** selected students will present their thesis proposal during a dedicated session within the MEGAWATT 2026 programme, in front of an audience of industry professionals and the Jury, which will evaluate the quality of the proposals and select the winner.

The winner will be offered the opportunity to carry out their Master's thesis project at Edison S.p.A.'s headquarters in Milan, prior to graduation, with an expense reimbursement provided.

All three finalists will be invited to participate in a two-day visit to the Marghera thermoelectric power plant and a one-day experience in Venice.

Art. 2 – ELIGIBILITY

The Award is open to:

Students enrolled in Master's Degree programmes in Engineering or other STEM disciplines at:

- Politecnico di Milano;
- Politecnico di Torino;
- University of Bergamo.

Art. 3 – APPLICATION PROCEDURE

To participate, applicants must submit:

- application form (including motivation for participating in the Award);
- thesis proposal title;
- descriptive abstract (maximum 300 words);
- curriculum vitae;
- a brief endorsement letter from the academic supervisor.

Titles and abstracts may be submitted in either English or Italian.

To apply, please visit: YOUNG PROGRAMME | MEGAWATT Exhibition & Conference

Application deadline: 28 October 2026

Art. 4 – THE JURY

Applications will be evaluated by a Jury appointed by Edison S.p.A.

The Jury will consist approximately of:

- 2–3 Edison representatives from different departments (HR, Thermoelectric Business Unit, R&D);
- one representative of MEGAWATT Exhibition;
- one representative of AIMSEA or another independent expert not affiliated with any participating university;
- one representative of an energy sector trade association.

The Jury shall operate independently, and its decisions shall be final and binding.

Art. 5 – EVALUATION CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed according to the following criteria:

1. Relevance to the proposed topics;
2. Degree of innovation of the proposal;
3. Industrial applicability and potential impact on the energy sector;
4. Methodological quality of the proposed approach;
5. Clarity and effectiveness of the abstract and final pitch.

Art. 6 – FINALISTS AND PITCH SESSION

Following the evaluation process, three finalists will be selected.

The finalists will present their proposal during MEGAWATT 2026 through a public pitch session.

At the conclusion of the presentations, the Jury will select the winner of the Award.

Art. 7 – THE PRIZES

All three finalists will receive:

- a visit to Edison's thermoelectric power plant in Marghera;
- a day in Venice organised by Edison, including accommodation and meals.

One overall winner will be selected among the three finalists and will gain access to an in-company experience aimed at developing their Master's thesis project.

The awarding of the first prize shall be subject to verification of all required academic and administrative requirements.

Art. 8 – MASTER'S THESIS PROJECT AT EDISON

The winning student will be supported by:

- an Edison company tutor;
- an academic supervisor, with whom the student is responsible for maintaining regular interaction and communication.

The in-company activities shall be carried out in accordance with the agreement in place between Edison and the student's university and in compliance with applicable legislation.

For insurance reasons, all activities must take place either at Edison facilities or at the university.

The starting date will be agreed upon with both the university and the selected student, approximately from **January 2027** onwards.

Art. 9 – COMPETITION TOPICS

Applicants shall develop a thesis proposal related to one of the following thematic areas:

- Control Systems, Digitalisation and Industrial Networks;
- Mechanical Engineering and Component Reliability;
- Performance Monitoring and Plant Diagnostics.

Further details regarding each thematic area are provided in **Annex A** to these Regulations.

Titles and abstracts may be submitted in Italian or English.

The final presentation (pitch session) shall be conducted in Italian.

Art. 10 – PERSONAL DATA PROCESSING

Participants' personal data will be processed by Edison S.p.A. exclusively for purposes related to the management of the Award, in accordance with applicable data protection legislation and Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR).

CONTACTS

For information regarding the Award:

Edison S.p.A. – Territory Team

Please send any inquiries to the following e-mail addresses:

viola.asadcheva@edison.it; carla.iacobini@edison.it

Annex A – Thematic Areas

1. Control Systems, Digitalisation and Industrial Networks

This thematic area covers topics related to automation and control systems, industrial communication networks, plant digitalisation, and the application of advanced data analytics and artificial intelligence techniques.

Possible areas of investigation include:

- application of advanced language models for the management and consultation of technical documentation;
- leveraging industrial communication networks for predictive maintenance;
- resilience analysis of OT networks with respect to reliability, availability, cybersecurity, and performance;
- digital solutions supporting asset management and operational optimisation;
- integration and exploitation of plant control system data.

2. Mechanical Engineering and Component Reliability

This thematic area focuses on the mechanical and thermomechanical behaviour of plant components, with particular attention to reliability, service life, and maintenance strategies.

Possible areas of investigation include:

- mechanical and thermal performance of welds and critical components;
- technologies and methodologies aimed at reducing steam turbine start-up times;
- assessment of residual life and cumulative damage in components subjected to fatigue.

3. Performance Monitoring and Plant Diagnostics

This thematic area is dedicated to the development of methodologies and tools for continuous monitoring of plant performance and the operating condition of key components.

Possible areas of investigation include:

- exergy analysis and performance monitoring of power generation plants;
- application of data-driven and physics-informed models for monitoring and diagnostics;
- use of artificial intelligence and machine learning techniques for anomaly detection;
- development of performance indicators to support operational and maintenance activities.