LNG Unlimited

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Mozambique onshore LNG to face decision time at end of February

The mission report to be delivered at end of February and its conclusions shared

LNG News Editor

TotalEnergies CEO Pouyanné visited Cabo Delgado February 3 to see for himself the security and humanitarian situation

The Mozambique liquefied natural gas project is moving forward with an independent survey taking place in Cabo Delgado Province of the southeast African nation to assess the humanitarian and security situation around the region were the liquefaction and export plant will be constructed.

The survey has been approved by the Mozambique Government and organized by the LNG project's main developer, French major TotalEnergies.

Assessment

The assessment will be led by Jean-Christophe Rufin, a former advisor to the French Minister of Defence in charge of peacekeeping operations in the 1990s and who was a former French Ambassador to the West African nations of Senegal and Gambia.

Patrick Pouyanné, Chairman and Chief Executive of TotalEnergies, visited Cabo Delgado on February 3 to see for himself the security and humanitarian situation.

The CEO visited the main construction site on the Afungi Peninsula as well as a resettlement village at Quitunda.

Pouyanné also visited the towns of Palma and Mocimboa da Praia and met Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi to discuss the security and humanitarian situation.

The CEO said Dr Rufin was a "recognized expert in humanitarian action and human rights". As a medical doctor he is also a former vice president of the aid group founded in France, Médecins Sans Frontières.

Pouyanné explained that Rufin's mission would additionally evaluate the actions taken by the Mozambique LNG project and will propose any additional actions to be implemented, if required.

"The report of this mission will be delivered at the end of February and its conclusions will be shared with all Mozambique LNG's partners, who shall decide whether the conditions are met for resuming project activities," declared Pouyanné.

The company had decided in April 2021 to withdraw all project personnel from the Afungi site because of security issues and led TotalEnergies and its partners to declare "force majeure" on the venture.

"Since 2021, the situation in Cabo Delgado province has improved significantly, thanks in particular to the support provided by the African countries that committed themselves to restore peace and security," explained Pouyanné.

"The lifting of the 'force majeure' and the resumption of activities at the Mozambique LNG project site require, in particular, the restoration of security in the region, the resumption of public services and the return to normal life for the people of the region," the CEO added.

"The mission entrusted to Jean-Christophe Rufin should enable Mozambique LNG's partners to assess whether the current situation allows for a resumption of activities while respecting human rights," he declared.

Mozambique LNG is the first onshore LNG development in the country.

Offshore fields

Feed-gas for the plant will come from the Golfinho and Atum natural gas fields located in Offshore Area 1 of the Rovuma Basin. Under initial development plans the building of two liquefaction Trains is envisaged with a total capacity of 13.1 million tonnes per annum.

The Area 1 shareholders in addition to TotalEnergies include Mozambican state-owned energy company ENH with 15 percent, Japan's Mitsui & Co, three Indian companies and Thailand's PTTEP.

Mitsui has a 20 percent stake, the three Indian companies, ONGC Videsh, Bharat PetroResources and Beas Rovuma Energy each hold 10 percent and PTTEP has 8.5 percent. ■

UNLIMITED AGENDA

BP forecasts flat 2023 but with focus on first gas for LNG in West Africa and Indonesia

LNG News Editor

UK major BP more than doubled annual profits, though was hit by slowing natural gas prices during the fourth quarter and expected a flat 2023 with among the main highlights being the start-up of two LNG projects in West Africa and Indonesia.

BP annual profits jumped to $27.65 billion, more than double the 2021 net income of $12.18Bln.

Exceptional

Fourth-quarter net profits amounted to $4.80Bln, less than the third quarter's $8.15Bln but higher than the prior-year quarter's $4.06Bln in earnings.

"Compared to the third quarter, the result was impacted by a below average gas marketing and trading result after the exceptional result in the third quarter, lower oil and gas realizations, a higher level of refinery turnaround and maintenance activity and lower marketing margins and seasonally lower volumes," explained BP.

FPSO completed for Mauritania-Senegal FLNG projects

The London-based company said annual natural gas price realisations for 2022 came to $8.91 per thousand feet (mcf) compared with $5.11 per mcf in the previous year.

For the fourth quarter the gas price realisation was $9.40 per mcf versus an average of $9.85 per mcf in the previous three months.

BP said in its 2023 outlook that it expected both reported and underlying upstream production to be broadly flat compared with 2022.

"Within this, BP expects underlying production from oil and operations to be slightly higher and production from gas and low carbon energy to be lower," said the company.

BP explained that it was also pushing ahead with two key LNG projects with first gas expected in 2023 for the Tangguh expansion in Indonesia and for the Greater Tortue Ahmeyim (GTA) LNG project on the maritime borders of Senegal and Mauritania.

BP's Tangguh LNG project began operations in Indonesia's West Papua province in 2009.

Tangguh has two LNG production Trains with a combined capacity of 7.6 million tonnes per annum and the third Train at Tangguh is set to come on stream in the months ahead.

BP said it also expected first gas by year-end in the floating LNG export project being developed jointly with Mauritania and Senegal.

African FLNG

The West African project's floating production, storage and offloading (FPSO) unit set sail on 20 January 2023 from Qidong, China after successfully completing a series of sea trials following construction over the past three and half years.

The FPSO is a part of the major integrated GTA development that also includes subsea development of gas fields and near-shore floating LNG facilities. ■

Equinor benefits from role as main pipeline gas supplier to Europe with record earnings

Norwegian energy major Equinor, the main supplier of pipeline natural gas to Europe and an LNG producer and exporter, reported soaring profits and record cash flow from becoming the primary gas supplier to its European neighbours after the cutting of Russian gas pipelines.

Equinor's annual net income for 2022 amounted to $28.7 billion a more than three-fold increase on the $8.57Bln logged for the previous year.

Revenues

Operating income soared to $78.81Bln compared with $33.66Bln in 2021.

Fourth-quarter net income came to $7.89Bln, which was less than the $9.37Bln reported in the third quarter but more than double the $3.37Bln of earnings in the prior-year quarter.

Equinor said its realised average European natural gas price was $29 per million British thermal units in the fourth quarter and its realised quarterly liquids price was $84 per barrel.

"Although prices are comparatively higher than the corresponding quarter in 2021, European gas price weakened through the fourth quarter of 2022," said Equinor.

Strong sales

State-backed Equinor, which is listed on the Oslo Børs and the New York Stock Exchange, said it paid $42.8Bln in tax related to operations on Norwegian Continental Shelf.

The company said it delivered strong sales and trading results, particularly from gas and power as it sold to markets with the highest demand.

"However, the Marketing, Midstream & Processing segment results were negative due to the timing impact of derivative contracts," it added.

Equinor said its exit from Russia earlier in 2022 coupled with fourth-quarter 2022 turnaround activity in the US and partial divestment in the Martin Linge field on the NCS resulted in reduced production levels for the quarter and full-year 2022 compared with 2021.

"Gas production has increased in response to the energy security crisis in Europe. Full-year gas production increased by 8 percent and liquids production declined by 6 percent compared to 2021," said the company.

Elevated prices and an optimised product split had balanced the company's reduced production levels.

"The overall context of 2022 was marked by realisation of significantly higher prices which is responsible for the significant increase in results," stated Equinor.

Seven new fields were brought on stream in 2022 and 13 more plans for development and operations were submitted to regulators.

"We responded to the energy crisis and contributed to energy security," said Anders Opedal, President and Chief Executive of Equinor.

"With a strong operational performance, we delivered record results and cash flow from operations. We stepped up capital distribution to shareholders, while continuing to invest in a balanced energy transition," stated the CEO. ■

Timor-Leste project plan at stage of decisions

The liquefied natural gas export project proposed for the Timor Sea resources of the Greater Sunrise gas fields offshore northern Australia and the tiny nation of Timor-Leste is to be the subject of a concept selection programme after almost 20 years of delays.

The Greater Sunrise joint venture is majority controlled (56.56 percent) by the Timor-Leste national oil company, while Australian LNG producer Woodside Energy owns more than 33 percent and the balance of 10 percent is held by Japanese utility Osaka Gas.

Talks between Woodside, the Australian government and Timor-Este on the future of a Greater Sunrise LNG project have continued intermittently for years and have now reached a settlement point.

"The Sunrise joint venture will consider all of the key issues for delivering the gas, for processing and LNG sales, to Timor-Leste compared to delivering the gas to Australia," explained the statement.

The Greater Sunrise gas fields are located about 150 kilometres (93 miles) off Timor-Leste and 450km northwest of Darwin in Australia's Northern Territory.

"In parallel to the concept select program, the joint venture is progressing the negotiation of the new Production Sharing Contract, Petroleum Mining Code and associated agreements with the Timor-Leste and Australian Governments, which upon finalisation will provide the fiscal and regulatory certainty required for a development to proceed," the joint statement concluded.

Tellurian pitches for buyers and investors at Indian conference

LNG News Editor

Tellurian Inc., the developer of the Driftwood LNG export plant in Louisiana, was present at the India Energy Week conference and exhibition in Bangalore seeking replacement buyers after it cancelled two sales and purchase agreements in 2022 with UK major Shell and global commodities firm Vitol as it formulated a new financing strategy.

Construction of the Driftwood facility had been hit by delays, though President and Chief Executive Octávio Simões said at the Indian event that the project was now back on track for first gas in 2026.

Tellurian CEO Octávio Simões (right) at earlier meeting with Indian Petroleum and Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri

Simões active

"We have invested about a $1 billion on the site, which is fully under construction. No other competing project is under construction," explained Simões about the development being built by US engineers Bechtel.

"The only way India and Indian companies can supply LNG at the lowest possible cost is if they invest equity in a project that allows them to lift the LNG at cost," stated Simões.

Tellurian had also previously signed a preliminary accord with the largest Indian cargo importer, Petronet LNG, but that agreement lapsed in May 2020 without being finalized.

Houston. Texas-based Tellurian has completed some site clearing and preliminary work at the site of the liquefaction plant near Lake Charles and ahead of a final investment decision.

Tellurian cancelled SPAs in September 2022 with Shell and Vitol for 3 million tonnes per annum of LNG each for 10 years. The volumes were to come from the first liquefaction Trains at the venture for which regulatory approvals are in place for 27.6 MTPA of output.

The Tellurian project involves constructing 20 mid-scale processing Trains, each with 1.38 MTPA of capacity and built as five blocks of four Trains.

The Phase One development would include the first two of these blocks with 11 MTPA of output and two of three planned 235,000 cubic metres storage tanks and the first of three planned loading berths for LNG carriers.

Beach Energy of Australia reaches agreement on Perth Basin project

Beach Energy of Australia said an agreement had been reached with Webuild SpA, the Italian industrial group, for the completion of the Waitsia Stage 2 project for LNG feed gas from the onshore Perth Basin subject to finalisation of the bankruptcy administration of previous engineers Clough Limited.

Beach said that that Waitsia Joint Venture, which also includes the Australian unit of Japan's Mitsui & Co. was still targeting first gas by the end of 2023.

Costs

The company said that an updated total capital expenditure estimate of A$400 million (US$277M) to A$450 (US$311M) net to Beach had been made from the original A$350M-$A400M. "Following Webuild's due diligence and review of cost and work schedules, Beach with the Waitsia Joint Venture and Webuild targeted first gas from the Waitsia Gas Plant by the end of 2023," said the Beach statement.

The Waitsia gas field production will be processed into LNG at the Woodside Energy-operated North West Shelf plant under a liquefaction tolling agreement and the cargoes have been pre-sold to UK major BP.

"Further to Beach's announcement in December 2022 regarding the voluntary administration of Clough Ltd., Beach and Mitsui Exploration and Production, its joint venture partner and the Waitsia field operator, have worked with Clough's administrators to ensure employee wages, subcontractors and suppliers continue to get paid, allowing the Waitsia Gas Plant construction to proceed during this difficult time," it added.

The joint venture explained that Webuild's acquisition of Clough and its personnel, systems and processes would enable project execution to continue uninterrupted.

"This marks an important step towards completion of the Waitsia Stage 2 project and is a key milestone in providing renewed momentum, stability and continuity to the project," said Beach Chief Executive Morné Engelbrecht.

NEWS BRIEFS

Vopak move on Antwerp

Royal Vopak, the energy and LNG storage and terminals company, has acquired the shares of Gunvor Petroleum Antwerp from commodities trading group Gunvor, giving it access to the Gunvor concession in the Belgian port of Antwerp to develop an energy hub. “Vopak is committed to sustainably redeveloping the site. together with the Port of Antwerp-Bruges,” said Vopak. The site is some 105 hectares in size and offers deep-sea, river, road and rail access, as well as pipeline connections to Northwest Europe.

Mexico LNG deal

Mexico Pacific LNG, the company planning a three-Train export project at Puerto Libertad in the northwest Mexican state of Sonora, said it signed long-term Sales and Purchase Agreements with ExxonMobil LNG Asia Pacific for the sale of a combined 2 million tonnes per annum of cargoes. Under the SPAs, the ExxonMobil affiliate will purchase cargoes on a free-on-board (FOB) basis from the first two Trains of Mexico Pacific’s Saguaro Energia LNG project in Sonora over a 20-year term.

Arctic LNG accord

Russian natural gas and energy company Novatek, the operator of the Yamal LNG export plant and developer of the Arctic LNG II project, has signed a non-binding memorandum of understanding to supply LNG to Indian company Deepak Fertilisers and Petrochemicals Corp. Novatek said the accord with Deepak was signed at the Indian Energy Week conference and exhibition taking place in Bangalore. “The MoU envisages spot and long-term LNG deliveries to Deepak Fertilisers, including from the Arctic LNG 2 project,” said Novatek. ■

Oman signs first LNG supply accord with China ahead of new 10-year output concession at liquefaction plant

LNG News Editor

Unipec’s Wang Yahang and Oman LNG CEO Hamed Al-Naamany sign supply deal at ceremony in the capital Muscat

The Sultanate of Oman on the Arabian Peninsula said it signed up a Chinese liquefied natural gas buyer as its eighth new customer from the renewed production concession at Oman LNG.

Oman LNG has signed a binding term-sheet agreement with the China International and Chemical Company (Unipec) to supply 1 million tonnes per annum of LNG starting in 2025.

Trading arm

Unipec is the trading arm of major Chinese energy company China Petrochemical Corp., also known as Sinopec.

The Unipec agreement is similar to seven others it has signed since the turn of the year with customers in Europe and Asia, though the Chinese deal is just for four years while the others are for up to 10 years.

“Unipec has become the latest beneficiary of Omani LNG and marks the first LNG term deal with a Chinese firm and opens the doors for new opportunities in the Chinese market,” said a statement.

The agreement was signed in the capital Muscat between Hamed Al-Naamany, Chief Executive of Oman LNG, and Wang Yahang, General Manager of Unipec, in the presence of Salim Al-Aufi, Oman’s Minister of Energy and Minerals.

“The term-sheet signing with Unipec marks another milestone, where the Omani LNG will be creating new opportunities in China. Such an agreement will further enhance our position in the global energy industry and ensure we maintain our reputation as a reliable energy supplier worldwide,” said Al-Naamany.

Previous deals

The previous Omani LNG deal was signed at the end of January 2023 with Turkey’s state-owned Petroleum Pipeline Corp. (BOTAS).

Oman will supply BOTAS with 1 MTPA of LNG for a 10-year period starting in 2025.

Similar deals to the BOTAS agreement have been signed with France’s TotalEnergies, Thailand’s oil and gas firm PTT, three Japanese buyers, JERA Co. Inc., Mitsui & Co. and Itochu Corp., and UK major Shell.

The new Oman LNG contracts are being lined up as the company plans to extend the lifespan of the liquefaction complex at Qalhat for another 10 years beyond its current concession to 2024.

The Omani LNG export facilities comprise the amalgamated three liquefaction Trains of Oman LNG and Qalhat LNG, which were merged in 2013 under the banner of Oman LNG.

The company has three liquefaction Trains at its site near Sur in the South Sharqiyah Governorate with a combined nameplate capacity of almost 11 MTPA.

The two-Train original Oman LNG plant has 7.1MT of capacity and the one-Train Qalhat plant has 3.6MT of capacity, though actual capacity is more after de-bottlenecking upgrades.

Oman had previous cut LNG output but the Ghazeer and Khazzan natural gas discoveries have in the last few years underpinned LNG production.

The gas has also opened the way for a proposed small-scale LNG plant to service the LNG bunkering market at the Port of Sohar.

That project envisages annual production capacity of 1 MTPA in Sohar, one of the largest industrial zones in the Middle East and well located for ships passing through the Gulf of Oman. ■

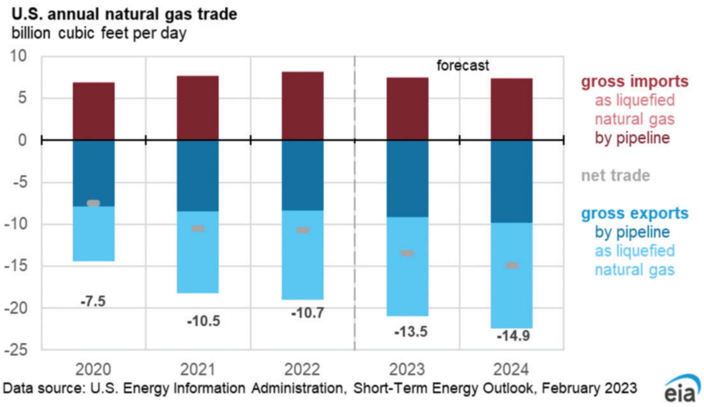
“Unipec has become the latest beneficiary of Omani LNG and marks the first LNG term deal with a Chinese firm and opens the doors for new opportunities in the Chinese market”

US LNG exports will be lower in the months ahead on high gas storage stockpiles in Europe

LNG News Editor

The US said liquefied natural gas exports will be lower over the next few months of 2023 because of high gas stocks in Europe and Freeport LNG being offline while record dry gas production growth has been outpacing demand.

"We expect utilization at US LNG export facilities to be slightly lower in the next few months compared with our previous forecast because of high natural gas stock levels in Europe," said the latest Short-Term Energy Outlook from the Energy Information Administration.



US LNG and natural gas trading forecasts through 2024

Freeport issue

"But US LNG exports in our forecast rise once the Freeport facility is back online and LNG exports increase by 11 percent (1.2 billion cubic feet per day) on an annual basis in 2023 compared with 2022," stated the Outlook.

The report forecasts that the benchmark Henry Hub natural gas spot price will average $3.40 per million British thermal units in 2023, down almost 50 percent from 2022 and about 30 percent lower since the previous Outlook in January.

"We revised our outlook for Henry Hub prices as a result of significantly warmer-than-normal weather in January that led to less- than-normal consumption of natural gas for space heating and pushed inventories above the five-year average," explained the EIA.

It was noted that US natural gas production growth has been outpacing demand growth the past several months, helping reduce natural gas prices.

Record output

The report estimates that dry natural gas production in the US established a new record in January at 100.2 billion cubic feet per day.

"We forecast dry natural gas production to continue to hover around 100 Bcf/d for most of this year. Overall, we expect dry natural gas production to average between 100 Bcf/d and 101 Bcf/d in 2023," said the report.

The EIA additionally expects less demand for natural gas for most of 2023 compared with last year due to falling demand in the electric power sector as more renewable generation comes online and because of less demand in the industrial sector as a result of a drop in manufacturing activity.

US natural gas storage inventories are forecast to end the withdrawal season (November through March) at more than 1.8 trillion cubic feet, which would be 16 percent above the five-year average and 19 percent more than the EIA had forecast in the January Outlook.

"The warmer-than-normal January temperatures reduced natural gas storage withdrawals below average, causing storage inventories to rise above the five-year (2018-2022) average at the end of January," said the report.

Storage inventories

The agency expects above-average storage inventories to reduce natural gas prices in 2023 compared with 2022 when the end-of-March storage inventories were 1.4 Tcf, 17 percent below the previous five-year (2017-2021) average.

The Outlook gave its forecast for the oil market and said the Brent crude oil spot price averaged $82 per barrel in January, about $2 per barrel higher than the average in December 2022.

"Oil prices rose during January in part because of the expectation of increasing oil demand as a result of relaxing Covid-19 restrictions and increasing mobility in China," said the EIA.

"Perceptions of a less severe recession and some improving macroeconomic conditions also likely contributed to rising crude oil prices over the past month," it added.

The US report also mentioned that more oil was produced in Russia than had been anticipated during January.

"We have also lowered our forecast for oil production in OPEC because of rising global oil inventories. These changes have largely offset each other in our forecast global balances, and beyond the first quarter of 2023, we have left our crude oil price forecast largely unchanged from last month," said the EIA.

Russia sanctions

The report expects that the Brent spot price will average $85 a barrel in the first half of 2023.

The EIA also forecasts that the European Union ban on seaborne imports of petroleum products from Russia that began on February 5 could be more disruptive than the ban on crude oil imports implemented in December.

"We assume Russia will be able to reroute some of its petroleum exports subject to EU sanctions," said the report.

"But we do not expect all of its refined product exports will find new destinations because of limited clean tanker availability, which will cause refiners in Russia to reduce crude oil inputs and for Russia's crude oil production to decline," the EIA concluded. ■

DNV says LNG fuel market is muted

European maritime classification society DNV said that liquefied natural gas-powered vessels led the way among the 275 newbuild orders made during 2022, though the start of 2023 has seen a muted market for LNG-fuelled orders even as Rotterdam bunkering prices tumbled.

There were orders for 222 LNG-powered ships last year, which was 81 percent of total orders placed with the world's leading shipyards, according to DNV data.

About 74 percent of those orders were for container vessels and Pure Car and Truck Carriers (PCTCs), while product tankers came in third, representing 9 percent of orders.

According to the latest figures from DNV's Alternative Fuels Insight (AFI) platform, order activity for alternative fuel vessels was muted at the start of the year. January 2023 saw just two methanol-fuelled bulk carriers ordered.

"The year has gotten off to a slow start for orders on alternative fuelled vessels. However, February is already looking more promising," said Martin Wold, Principal Consultant in DNV's Maritime Advisory business.

"And although we saw no new confirmed orders for LNG in January, gas prices have come down to a level where LNG bunkering is for the time being getting more competitive," Wold explained.

The DNV data showed that the total number of LNG-powered ships in operation or on order at the end of January 2023 comprised in the largest sectors 43 containerships in operation and 181 on order, 10 car carriers operating and 119 on order, 49 crude oil tankers operating and 40 on order and 44 oil-chemical tankers operating and 44 on order.

Greek shipping fleet values keep nation at No. 3 worldwide list

LNG News Editor

Of the top ship-owning nations, the Greeks continue to outperform the nation's size with a fleet ranked third globally behind Japan and China respectively in both the number of vessels and the total value, though Greece's fleet value has been augmented by an increasing number of quality LNG carriers.

The entire Greek commercial fleet comprises 4,709 ships on the water and on order and with a total value $152.69Bln, according to a Greece-focused shipping survey.

The survey was published to mark the start of the Capital Link Annual Greek Shipping Forum and focuses in particular on the Greek fleet using VesselsValue data.

Overall, Japan tops the total value list with a fleet worth $193.64Bln and with 5,974 commercial ships ahead of China in value terms with the Chinese ranking first in vessel numbers of 7,114 ships.

Most valuable Greek ship is 'Clean Copano' LNG carrier

However, the Chinese fleet has a lesser estimated value than the Japanese fleet at $182.4Bln.

"Despite a relatively small fleet of 127 LNG vessels, soaring global demand for LNG has sent the value of the Greek fleet sky high, with the fleet value for LNG carriers at $30.50Bln," said the report.

The most valuable Greek-owned cargo vessel is the recently delivered "Clean Copano" LNG carrier with 199,830 cubic metres capacity and delivered in July 2022 by Hyundai Heavy industries.

The carrier is owned by Dynagas and has a current value of $286.11M.

However, bulkers are the most popular vessels within the Greek fleet, with a total of 2,272 vessels, followed by tankers with 1,450 vessels and 430 containerships.

"Tankers are the most valuable sector for Greece, worth $61.03Bln. This sector has recently seen extraordinary increases in values, which have hit 13-year highs over the last year," said the report.

Maran Gas Maritime, the LNG arm of the Angelicoussis Group, is ranked first in a list of the top five Greek owners while a Dynagas-owned LNG vessels is the most valuable ship in the Greek fleet.

New Fortress sells Cameroon hull stake to Golar for shares and cash

New Fortress Energy (NFE), the US LNG-for-power project developer has reached an agreement with shipping company Golar LNG for the sale of NFE's ownership stake in a floating LNG production hull deployed off Cameroon in West Africa.

The FLNG hull, the "Hilli Episeyo", is a former commercial LNG carrier converted into a production hull with 2.4 million tonnes per annum of capacity and originally chartered to European oil and gas company Perenco and Cameroon's national oil firm Société Nationale des Hydrocarbures (SNH).

NFE's interest in the "Hilli Episeyo" FLNG vessel come from its acquisition of the US affiliate of the Golar LNG company, Golar LNG Partners.

Pursuant to the latest transaction, Golar LNG will acquire NFE's entire interest in the "Hilli" for the return by Golar of 4.1 million NFE shares and $100 million in cash.

The acquisition by NFE of all Nasdaq-listed NFE shares held by Golar reduces the number of NFE stock outstanding to around 204.7 million shares.

As part of the agreement, NFE will also extinguish $323M in debt obligations associated with its interest in the "Hilli".

"With this transaction we will sell our minority interest in the Hilli in exchange for 4.1 million shares of NFE and $100 million in cash," said Wes Edens, Chairman and Chief Executive of NFE.

"We believe this is a fair economic result for both ourselves and Golar," stated Edens.

"Furthermore, from a strategic perspective, it will allow us to focus solely on our own FLNG portfolio that we own 100 percent of as well as buy back NFE stock at an attractive valuation," explained the NFE CEO.

"Golar has been a meaningful partner for the past several years and we have appreciated the opportunities to collaborate with them," he stated.

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Company CEO Al-Kaabi said Qatari energy industry graduates will be needed as nation embarks on expansion projects

QatarEnergy graduation ceremony highlights quality value chain developed on back of LNG

LNG News Editor

QatarEnergy, the leading LNG exporter and developer of major new liquefaction projects, has celebrated the graduation of a new group of Qatari nationals who have successfully completed their academic studies and training programmes to join the workforces of QatarEnergy and other companies in the sector.

QatarEnergy said there were 89 graduates this year who will be taking up positions at the Arabian Gulf nation's impressive list of 10 companies that have sprung from its developing of the oil and gas chain and its continuing pioneering of cleaner energy technology.

Array of companies

The companies are: QatarEnergy, Qatargas, North Oil Company, Oryx GTL, Qatar Petrochemical Company (QAPCO), Qatar Fertiliser Company (QAFCO), Qatar Fuel Additives Company (QAFAC), Qatar Aluminium (QATALUM), Qatar Chemical Company Ltd (Q-Chem), Qatar Fuel (Woqod) - as well as Shell Qatar.

In a speech to the graduates Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi, Qatar's Minister of State for Energy Affairs and President and Chief Executive of QatarEnergy, said the event made him proud and able to reflect on his own journey in the energy sector and the role ambition and hard work that play a role in reaching the highest ranks.

"I am pleased to congratulate you and your families on your graduation and on taking your first professional steps in the energy sector of the State of Qatar," said Al-Kaabi. ■

Bangladesh re-enters spot LNG market amid falling prices and as domestic power demand rises

The Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina Wazed, said the southwest Asian country needed urgent supplies of liquefied natural gas from the spot market even at high prices to help meet the growing demand for natural gas for power generation.

"The process of importing LNG from the spot market has already been adopted as a necessary measure to meet the demand for natural gas," she told parliament.

Two FSRUs

Bangladesh has two floating LNG import terminals in the form of floating storage and regasification units (FSRUs) chartered from the US terminal specialists Excelerate Energy.

One FSRU is chartered by national oil and gas company PetroBangla and has been located offshore Moheshkhali Island in the Bay of Bengal since 2018.

The second is chartered by Summit Power International of Singapore and has been stationed since 2019 off the port of Cox's Bazaar.

The Prime Minister's call for more LNG imports came as prices for cargoes have dropped by about 50 percent in the last two months and it was seen as advantageous to re-enter the spot market at the current lows.

Bangladesh operates more than 20 natural gas fields and produces around 24 billion cubic metres per annum of domestic gas, though has to import at least 7 Bcm of LNG per annum to make up at least some of the shortfall.

Bangladesh depends on imported natural gas for power generation as the energy mix is made up of a high proportion of gas-fired power plants, about 60 percent of the total, while the balance comes mostly from coal.

The Prime Minister in her statement that it was important to import LNG in February and March, firstly for the current agricultural irrigation season and into March for the month-long Moslem observance period of Ramadan.

Bangladesh's LNG needs would also be prolonged into the summer so that power disruptions could be avoided to maintain growth in the industrial sector.

She added that while the government had taken steps to reduce unnecessary expenditure to continue the flow of financial resources for social programmes the energy needs of the country were also very important.

Spot price indicators

Analysts said that Bangladesh would be seeking at least a dozen spot LNG cargoes or more between the end of February and June. ■