LNG Unlimited

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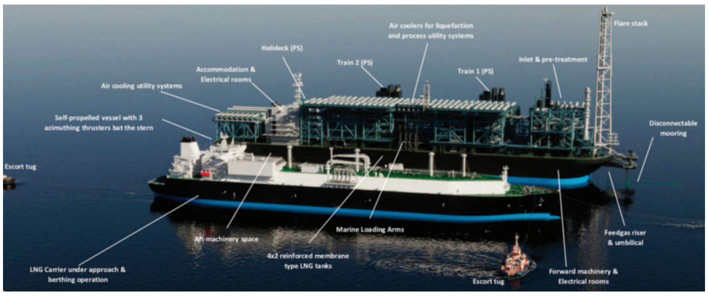
Mitsui OSK Lines partners with Delfin for Louisiana FLNG project

Delfin Midstream has signed a strategic investment accord with Japanese company

LNG News Editor



General design and arrangement of Delfin FLNG vessel

Delfin Midstream Inc., the US floating LNG developer with a project in the Gulf of Mexico offshore Louisiana, has entered into a strategic investment agreement with Japanese shipping company Mitsui OSK Lines.

Delfin said that the accord would accelerate growth in the company as it develops its LNG ventures.

Under the deal, MOL will make an investment in Delfin and a MOL representative will join Delfin's Board of Directors.

"We are excited to enter into this strategic agreement with MOL, representing another industry-leading partnership," said Dudley Poston, Chief Executive of Delfin.

MOL investment

"Our low-cost, simplified floating liquefaction solution will be significantly enhanced by MOL's extensive marine expertise, creating a world-class partnership with significant benefits for both Delfin and MOL," added Poston.

"Proceeds from MOL's investment will be used to accelerate making Final Investment Decisions on our first two FLNG vessels this year," the CEO stated without disclosing the size of the Japanese funding.

Delfin noted that MOL has long been a leading LNG infrastructure company while also investing in floating storage and regasification units.

Takeshi Hashimoto, President and Chief Executive MOL, stated that he was delighted to have a partnership with Delfin.

"Drawing on our extensive expertise gained from previous LNG carrier and FSRU projects and other ventures, we anticipate collaborating with Delfin to successfully drive forward this project toward our initial shared goal of quickly making a Final Investment Decision on the first FLNG vessel," Hashimoto declared.

The Delfin floating LNG project is based on the deployment of vessel-borne liquefaction facilities with other moored production and storage vessels.

Delfin has said it would require minimal additional infrastructure investment to support up to four FLNG vessels producing around 13.3 million tonnes per annum.

Own pipeline

Delfin also owns the UTOS pipeline, the largest natural gas pipeline in the Gulf of Mexico.

The Delfin developers have already been awarded a deepwater port licence by the US Maritime Administration (MARAD) and the project has been approved by the US Coast Guard.

Delfin is additionally seeking to construct, operate and maintain certain onshore metering, compression, and piping facilities located onshore in Cameron Parish in Louisiana. "The agreement also provides MOL with the opportunity to make additional investments directly in Delfin's FLNG vessels and establishes a framework for MOL to assist in the construction and operation of these vessels," said the Houston-based company.

"This collaboration ensures a mutually beneficial partnership that maximizes the potential of the FLNG vessels and further enhances Delfin's capabilities," it said.

Due diligence

The US company also explained the MOL had completed "extensive due diligence of the entire Delfin LNG project" and its investment represented further testament to Delfin's ability to execute on its objectives.

As part of the agreement, Suryan Wirya-Simunovic will join Delfin's Board.

Delfin said that Mr Wirya-Simunovic is MOL's Executive Officer for Energy Related Business for Europe, Americas and Africa and has over 30 years of experience in the energy and maritime sectors.

"The Delfin team has deep experience successfully converting LNG carriers into both FSRUs and FLNG vessels," said Wouter Pastoor, Chief Operating Officer of Delfin. ■

American Bureau of Shipping approves latest version of Norwegian-designed LNG tanks

LNG News Editor

The American Bureau of Shipping, the US maritime classification society, has approved an upgraded and larger liquified natural gas containment system developed by Norwegian firm LNT Marine along with the Shanghai Merchant Ship Design and Research Institute.

LNT Marine said its newer system was more than three times the size of the previous design.

"The new design is for a 175,000-cubic-meter LNG carrier, a significant increase in capacity from the earlier 45,000 cubic metres vessel design installed on the pioneering ABS-classed 'Saga Dawn' carrier for Saga LNG Shipping," explained ABS.

The LNT A-BOX system features self-supporting IMO Type-A tanks mounted within an insulated hold space.

Representatives from ABS, SDARI and LNT Marine met during the Nor-Shipping 2023 conference and exhibition in Oslo for the presentation of the ABS approval in principle (AIP) to the parties involved in the project.

"ABS has a proud track record of supporting the innovative LNT A-BOX technology since the very beginning," explained Patrick Ryan, ABS Senior Vice President and Chief Technology Officer.

John McDonald, ABS Executive Vice President and COO, with Kjetil Sjølie Strand, CEO of LNT Marine for presentation

Bigger capacity

"This latest design will provide much needed capacity to meet the increased demand around the world," Ryan added.

Kjetil S. Strand, Chief Executive of LNT Marine, said he was very pleased and thankful for the long-lasting collaboration with ABS and SDARI leading to this approval.

"This design and AIP for a 175,000 m3 LNG carrier with aluminum tanks, demonstrates the suitability and competitiveness of LNT A-BOX® containment system for large-scale LNG carrier," Strand added.

"The LNT A-BOX cargo containment system is simple and robust, with a self-supporting primary tank - in this case made from aluminum, and an independent full secondary barrier," Strand said.

The CEO noted that tanks with internal structure offer flexible filling levels and operation and the design was efficient in terms of hydrodynamic performance and thermal efficiency, while offering low fuel consumption and market-leading boil-off rate.

"As this solution also enables more shipyards to build LNG carriers, we are now in a position to offer the sector more capacity, competition and flexibility in the field of LNG shipbuilding, which we believe is in the interest of the entire LNG industry," Strand declared.

Gangyi Wang, Chief Engineer of the Shanghai-based body SDARI, said the institute was always seeking a leading position with ship technology developments.

"We are very pleased to cooperate with LNT Marine and ABS to develop this 175,000 cubic metre LNG carrier with LNT A-BOX as the cargo containment system," he added.

"It is expected that this design can enrich the storage tank forms in large LNG carriers and provide more options for owners," he stated.

Spain's Repsol inaugurates LNG bunkering at Santander for main customer Brittany Ferries

Repsol has inaugurated its second supply terminal for liquefied natural gas bunkering for ships arriving in the northwest Spanish port city of Santander, especially its main customer Brittany Ferries.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by regional authorities and Repsol's divisional Executive Managing Director Juan Abascal.

The new facility has a cryogenic tank with a storage capacity of 1,000 cubic metres in addition to the terminal that Repsol already has in the nearby port of Bilbao.

"This new terminal, that we have just inaugurated is another step in Repsol's commitment to the energy transition and the decarbonization of the maritime sector," said Repsol's Abascal.

Both terminals are part of the collaboration agreement that Repsol signed with French shipping company Brittany Ferries in 2019 for the supply of LNG as maritime fuel for its operations in Spain.

Flexibility

"In the design of the Santander terminal, operational flexibility has prevailed, allowing access for any type of vessel and also covering the needs for LNG refuelling of a medium-sized vessels," said Repsol.

"In addition, the facility allows the simultaneous loading of passengers and fuel, optimizing operations on land and in maritime traffic, which leads to a reduction of emissions in port operations," Repsol added.

The Brittany Ferries vessel "Santoña" will carry out regular operations at thr new facility in the port of Santander.

The new terminal is co-financed by the European Commission through the CEF-Connecting Europe Facilities Program.

"Advancing towards a carbon-neutral economy is a key priority of the European Commission," said Richard Ferrer, Head of the Transport Innovation Team at the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency.

Brittany Ferries, the French line that links the UK with Spain and France, has also been introducing newbuild roll-on-roll-off passenger and freight vessels connecting Portsmouth in England with two French ports.

The Brittany Ferries services cover a dozen ports: Spain's Bilbao and Santander, the UK's Portsmouth, Poole and Plymouth, the Irish port of Cork and the French ports of Caen, Cherbourg, Le Havre, Ouistreham, Saint-Malo and Roscoff.

SEA-LNG coalition signs up Nikkiso

SEA-LNG, the coalition established to demonstrate the commercial and environmental benefits of LNG and the pathway it provides for cleaner shipping, has signed up Nikkiso Clean Energy and Industrial Gases (Nikkiso CEIG) is the latest member company.

Nikkiso supplies equipment, technologies and engineering services to support the safe operation of LNG as a marine fuel.

"SEA-LNG's membership will open up networking and collaboration opportunities for Nikkiso to support its work on cryogenic pumps and process systems as well as broader cryogenic services," said a statement.

The group also works on heat exchanger systems and Nikkiso Turboexpander systems and has experience in boil-off-gas management for LNG fuelled vessels, methane slip mitigation, and integrated LNG fuel gas supply systems.

Peter Keller, Chairman of SEA-LNG, said that to achieve its cleaner shipping targets the industry would require a basket of fuels and technology options.

"Collaboration across the entire LNG value chain, with companies like Nikkiso, ensures that LNG will have a place as a key part of that basket," added Keller.

"As an important marine fuel, LNG can deliver on decarbonisation now with immediate greenhouse-gas emissions reductions and that provides a low risk, incremental pathway for decarbonisation through bio-LNG and renewable synthetic e-LNG," he stated in looking well into the future.

Hanseatic Energy Hub welcomes LNG operator Enagás as partner

LNG News Editor

Hanseatic Energy Hub GmbH has chosen the leading Spanish liquefied natural gas terminal owner and gas grid operator Enagás as an industrial partner for the operation of the future onshore LNG terminal planned for the lower Elbe River in northern Germany.

The Spanish company is one of Europe's leading Transmission System Operators as well as overseeing a network of regasification facilities around Spain's coast and will replace Belgium's Fluxys in the consortium.

The Hanseatic Hub facility will be located in the Stade industrial park and will have regasification capacity of 13.3 billion cubic metres per annum.

The other shareholders in the venture include chemicals and gases company Dow Germany and the Hamburg-based Buss Group which is involved in businesses from shipping to renewable energy and investments.

The Spanish TSO will have a 10 percent stake, subject to compliance with other regulatory conditions.

Dow Germany is partner in LNG project and has chemicals plants at 13 locations in the country including Stade

Replacing Fluxys

For its part, Belgian natural gas grid and terminals company Fluxys, the previous minority shareholder, will sell its shares due to a strategic reorientation.

"The parties have agreed not to disclose the exact terms of the agreements until the final investment decision is made later in 2023," the Spanish company explained.

Arturo Gonzalo, Chief Executive of Enagás, pointed out that the agreement was key to helping to achieve the European objectives of security of supply and lower carbon and fits with his company's strategic plan.

In a first phase, from the end of 2023 until the commissioning of the onshore Stade terminal, the Hanseatic Hub would be the site of one of the five floating storage and regasification units (FSRUs) chartered by the German Government.

LNG charterer Exmar of Belgium sees Saverex takeover proceeding

Belgian shipping company Exmar, which chartered a regasification barge to the Netherlands and sold a floating LNG production vessel to Italy's Eni for deployment in Africa, said the takeover process had begun involving Saverex NV, the holding company of the family of Exmar Executive Chairman Nicolas Saverys.

Acceptance

"Exmar announces that Saverex has launched its voluntary and conditional public takeover bid on all shares and stock options in Exmar which are not already directly or indirectly in the possession of Saverex or its affiliates," said an Exmar statement.

Exmar added that the initial acceptance period with respect to the offer would open on June 8 and close on July 6 at 16:00 Belgian time.

The company said the offer price was €12.10 per share ($12.95) and €2.48 ($2.65) per share option and the ultimate goal would be to take Exmar private.

Exmar said that following the decision of the general meeting of Exmar of 16 May 2023 to pay a gross dividend of €1.00 per share with an ex-dividend date on 22 May 2023, the offer price per share and the offer price per share option would be reduced accordingly.

Exmar has chartered its regasification barge to the operator of the Dutch Eemshaven hub, the Dutch utility Gasunie.

Antwerp-based Exmar also sold the "Tango FLNG" production barge to Italy's Eni for $646.7M.

The Italian company is planning an LNG project from a natural gas field offshore the African nation of the Republic of Congo.

The Eemshaven LNG was said by Exmar in its latest earnings to be performing as per expectations under the five-year charter to Gasunie affiliate EemsEnergy Terminal BV with a 100 percent commercial uptime in the first quarter of 2023.

The Marine XII "gas valorization project" of Eni is based on the deployment of the "Tango FLNG" vessel and the 10-year charter of Exmar's LNG carrier "Excalibur".

NEWS BRIEFS

Suez Canal fuelling

Peninsula, the company founded to fill a gap in the Gibraltar market for bunkering services and benefitting from the assistance of a refinery across the bay in Algeciras in Spain, said it had started physical supply operations on the north end of the Suez Canal as one of the first foreign suppliers for the waterway that sees over 20,000 vessels passing through every year. Peninsula, the company founded to fill a gap in the Gibraltar market for bunkering services and benefitting from the assistance of a refinery across the bay in Algeciras in Spain, said it had started physical supply operations on the north end of the Suez Canal as one of the first foreign suppliers for the waterway that sees over 20,000 vessels passing through every year.

Papua LNG stake

JX Nippon Oil and Gas Exploration Corp. has purchased a micro-stake of 2.58 percent as part of a farm-in agreement with French major TotalEnergies in the Papua New Guinea LNG expansion. JX Nippon is buying the stake for an undisclosed sum in PRL15 licence for the Papua LNG project located onshore and with planned production capacity of 5.6 million tonnes per annum.

Eni accord with Libya

Eni, the main international natural gas producer in former LNG-exporting nation Libya, has signed an accord to identify opportunities to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions at Libyan oil and gas facilities. Eni said the signing took place as part of the visit to Italy of the Prime Minister of the Government of Libyan National Unity Abulhamid Dabaiba. ■

Canadian LNG terminals pathfinder Irving Oil announces strategic review and may put itself up for sale

LNG News Editor

St John LNG terminal with storage capacity of 480,000 cubic metres in three tanks started up in 2009

Irving Oil, the owner of Canada's largest oil refinery and a former stakeholder in the nation's only large-scale LNG import terminal, has launched a strategic review that may lead to the full or partial sale of the whole company.

The company, founded in 1924, is owned by Canada's wealthy Irving family.

Their Irving Group of companies is a conglomerate, which includes a forestry business, a shipbuilding and logistics operations and is the largest industrial company in the Atlantic Coast province of New Brunswick.

Refinery

The Irving Oil's refinery processes 320,000 barrels of oil a day and is located in Saint John, New Brunswick.

The company sold its stake in the LNG import terminal, which is also in St John, during the Covid-19 pandemic in August 2021.

Irving Oil off-loading its 25 percent stake to its partner, the Spanish oil and gas company Repsol for an undisclosed sum.

Irving Oil had been one of the first oil and gas companies to take a stake in an LNG importer terminal and the New Brunswick facility came on line in 2009.

LNG deal

The terminal, which has three storage tanks and combined capacity of 480,000 cubic metres was called Canaport LNG at the time and Repsol then changed its name to St John LNG when Irving Oil withdrew.

Irving Oil and Repsol had considered various projects, including transforming the terminal into an LNG export plant, though none of the proposals had ever moved significantly forward.

Repsol and Irving Oil cancelled a project for LNG exports from the St John facility because of the energy industry downturn in 2016, as well as the anti-hydrocarbon energy policies of the Federal government in Ottawa.

Repsol Canada said at the time that after a review of the conversion venture, the company had concluded the project was not economic.

It was placed on hold as market conditions and project challenges made it unattractive for third parties and off-takers to join the project.

In the same period of 2016 even the Shell-led LNG Canada project was postponed.

The current Irving Oil operates more than 900 gasoline filling stations in eastern Canada and New England in the US and distributes refined fuel products.

The only oil refinery in the Republican of Ireland, the Whitegate facility in County Cork, is also operated by Irving Oil.

"Irving Oil is announcing that a strategic review of the company is underway, and a series of options are being evaluated related to the company's future," said the statement signed by Chairman Arthur Irving, company President Ian Whitcomb and Executive Vice President Sarah Irving.

"No decisions have been made about where this strategic review may lead," it added.

Ownership structure

"Consideration will be given to a new ownership structure, a full or partial sale, or a change in the portfolio of our assets and how we operate them," it concluded.

New Brunswick Premier Blaine Higgs said in a statement that Irving Oil's words would "undoubtedly create anxiety" in the province.

Higgs, who was an Irving Oil executive before entering politics, then criticised the Canadian Federal government's policies for "disadvantaging and restraining" Canadian industry.

"That definitely factors into the evaluation," said Higgs. "They've expressed their concern about Federal policy for some time. I have talked publicly about it for some time. It has been an ongoing challenge," he added. ■

> **"Irving Oil is announcing that a strategic review of the company is underway, and a series of options are being evaluated related to the company's future"**
>
> *- Irving Oil statement*

Swiss LNG and energy equipment-maker Burckhardt reports records amid challenges

LNG News Editor

Swiss company Burckhardt Compression, a specialist provider of LNG sector equipment and energy industry technology, has increased annual profits and sales to record levels as the order intake surged to the equivalent of US$1.4 billion from rising demand to meet the energy transition.

Dry-dock servicing for Burckhardt boil-off gas compressors

The order intake for the fiscal year amounted to 1.27 billion Swiss francs ($1.4Bln), an increase of almost 30 percent from the 976.6M francs posted in the previous year.

Burckhardt, which is listed on Europe's third-largest bourse - the Swiss Stock Exchange, also achieved record sales for the year of 827.7M francs ($911M), a jump of 27.5 percent on the 650.7M francs reported in the year before.

Operating income jumped 35 percent to 94M francs, up from 70.3M, while net income soared by almost 39 percent to 70M francs from 50.4M previously.

Burckhardt said China, Korea and the USA have driven the growth of the Group's order intake.

LNG sector

The company noted exceptional orders for LNG applications and high growth in the hydrogen mobility and energy sectors.

One of Burckhardt's key products in the LNG shipping sector is its Laby GI Compressor, the world's first oil-free reciprocating high-pressure fuel-gas compressor in service.

Burckhardt's fuel-gas compressor system for boil-off gas plays an important role on LNG carriers to help maximise fuel efficiency.

The company also an efficient maritime servicing programme as well as products for gas processing and gas gathering.

Burckhardt said it had additionally seen "exceptional demand" for low density polyethylene (LDPE) and ethylene-vinyl acetate (EVA) compressors to support the solar panel industry.

The Winterthur, Switzerland-based company has two divisions, the Systems Division where annual sales rose 31.4 percent to 489.7M francs and the Services Division where sales grew by 22.3 percent to 340.0M francs.

In addition to its Swiss operations, Burckhardt has expanded in recent years to run businesses in the US, Japan and has operations in China, including ownership of Shenyang Yuanda Compression.

Ambitious plans

"Burckhardt enters fiscal year 2023 in a solid financial position with good momentum in both divisions, a strong team and an ambitious plan," said the company.

"The Group expects supply chain tensions in certain material categories to persist in the coming year as well as some uncertainty about the development of the global economy," added the Burckhardt earnings statement.

"However, based on the strong order intake over the past two fiscal years, it expects sales to reach between 950M francs and 1 billion francs," the company declared.

Burckhardt said its record year came despite lockdowns in China and ongoing supply chain tensions, as well as "inflationary pressures on energy and specific material categories" which presented operational challenges.

"As a direct result of the war in Ukraine, Burckhardt has refrained from accepting any orders from the Russian market since March 2022," said the company.

"Growth in other markets has more than compensated for the loss of volume in Russia. The one-off costs related to the wind-down of the Russian backlog have been more than offset by global profitable sales growth, a favourable product mix in the Systems division and strong operational performance," Burckhardt explained.

The company concluded that based on the strong results, the Board will propose at the Annual General Meeting a dividend of 12.00 francs ($13.20) per share. This is within the Group's overall dividend policy of a 50 percent-to-70 percent pay-out ratio and represents an increase this year of 60 percent compared with the previous year. ■

US EIA expects more rises in prices

The United States forecasts an increase in natural gas prices for the summer months of 2023 due to inventories narrowing the surplus to the five-year storage average, though would be much lower than last year's price of almost $8.00 per million British thermal units in some quarters.

The US Short-Term Energy Outlook said that even as natural gas storage inventories were 15 percent above the five-year average at the end of May compared with a deficit of 14 percent below the 2017-2021 average at the end of May 2022, prices would still increase.

On the crude oil market, the report said that following the move by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries led by Saudi Arabia and other oil-producing countries at a summit in Vienna on June 4 to extend crude oil cuts through 2024, the EIA forecasts that global oil inventories would decline slightly in each of the next five quarters.

"We expect these draws will put some upward pressure on crude oil prices, notably in late-2023 and early-2024. We forecast the Brent crude oil spot price will average $79 per barrel in the second half of 2023 and $84/b in 2024," said the EIA.

"We forecast global liquids fuels consumption will rise by 1.6 million barrels per day in 2023 from an average of 99.4 million b/d last year," the report added.

The EIA stated that the consumption in its forecast grows by an additional 1.7 million barrels per day in 2024, though most of this growth comes from non-OECD countries.

LNG price to be affected by Saudi output decision from July to 2024

LNG News Editor

OPEC outlines decisions at press conference on 4th June

Long-term contract prices of liquefied natural gas linked to crude oil are set to increase in the weeks ahead as the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries led by Saudi Arabia and other Non-OPEC oil-producing countries opted at a summit in Vienna to extend cuts in oil production through 2024 and with the Saudis making an additional reduction in their own output.

The 10 OPEC nations in attendance and the 10 other oil-producing countries, known by the combined term of OPEC+, ended their meeting with a detailed statement.

Crude oil prices immediately rose by almost 3 percent after the Vienna meeting before settling.

Under the latest OPEC+ agreement, Saudi Arabia would make additional voluntary cuts of 1 million barrels a day to its oil output from July 2023 in an effort to support prices.

Cuts per nation

The OPEC+ group's total production targets were adjusted to 40.5 million barrels a day for the duration of 2024, formalising and extending the voluntary cuts announced in April 2023.

The OPEC 10 would produce 24.99M barrels of oil a day and the participating 10 Non-OPEC states would have output of 15.46M barrels a day to make up the 40.463M barrels a day total.

While current output levels expected through to the end of 2023 are to be maintained, and with the Saudis cutting output by 1 million barrels a day, the following OPEC production levels are to be formalised for January-to-December 2024 and are (million barrels per day): Algeria 1.007 mb; Angola 1.280 mb; Congo 0.276 mb; Equatorial Guinea 0.070 mb; Gabon 0.177 mb; Iraq 4.431 mb; Kuwait 2.267 mb; Nigeria 1.380; Saudi Arabia 10.478 mb; and the UAE 3.219 mb.

OPEC formally has 13 member nations and the three non-participating OPEC countries in current production cuts are Iran, Venezuela and Libya.

Non-OPEC output levels agreed for 2024 are: Azerbaijan 0.500 mb per day; Bahrain 0.196 mb; Brunei 0.083 mb; Kazakhstan 1.628 mb; Malaysia 0.401 mb; Mexico 1.753 mb; Oman 0.841 mb; Russia 9.828 mb; Sudan 0.064 mb; and South Sudan 0.124 mb.

Intercontinental Exchange outlines Dutch TTF futures records in May

Intercontinental Exchange, the leading global provider of energy trading platforms for futures and options, reported a record number of Dutch Title Transfer Facility (TFF) gas futures and options traded during May 2023 as the market tries to manage natural gas price risk exposure.

A record 5.7 million TTF futures and options were traded last month, which is the equivalent to a record 4,158 terawatt hours.

"Liquidity in ICE's benchmark TTF market has grown strongly in 2023 with open interest up 37 percent year-over-year at 2.6 million contracts, the highest level since January 2022," said Atlanta, Georgia-based ICE. "In addition, ICE is seeing record market participation in its TTF futures and options markets, with hedging out to December 2031," ICE said.

Analysts explained that the TTF global benchmark for natural gas and the futures market sends price signals which market participants rely on to manage their global natural gas price exposure as well as pricing the flow of natural gas in Europe.

Critical signals

"The success of the TTF derivatives market in sending these critical price signals has helped Europe balance supply and demand for natural gas, as well as identifying and clearing infrastructure bottlenecks that were created due to the changing flows of natural gas caused by the material reduction of gas flowing from Russia," stated Gordon Bennett, Managing Director of Utility Markets at ICE.

According to ICE data, about 25 million TTF contracts have traded on ICE this year, up 17 percent year on year.

The firm noted that there was "particularly strong" activity in TTF Options where volume is up 179 percent and open interest has risen by up to 68 percent compared with 2022.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LNG importer the Philippines in talks on ventures with Japan Bank for International Cooperation

LNG News Editor

The Philippines, the newest liquefied natural gas importing nation, has held talks with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation and said the JBIC had expressed interest in energy joint ventures.

"The JBIC's planned partnerships with Filipino companies for energy development were raised during a meeting between President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and the JBIC's Board of Directors led by Tadashi Maeda at Malacañan Palace in Manila," said a government statement.

The JBIC is a Japanese state financial institution that offers funding support to overseas projects involving companies from Japan.

The government added that the JBIC addressed the issue of LNG investment and the future role of hydro-electric power in the Asian country as well as renewables like solar and wind.

JBIC's Maeda met with several industry leaders in Manila including executives of the Aboitiz Group and the infrastructure company Metro Pacific.

JBIC chairman Tadashi Maeda meets for talks on energy issues in Manila with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

The Japanese delegation also met with the San Miguel Corp., a conglomerate with oil refining, energy marketing and power subsidiaries and which is involved in the first LNG import project.

Projects sought

"We have the potential between Japan and the Philippines to work together," Maeda stated, while adding that there was a need to identify specific projects.

The JBIC is seeking to be an investors along with Japanese companies in renewable energy projects in particular to address the power supply needs of the Philippines.

The bank also had a separate meeting with Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman to discuss opportunities to accelerate sustainability efforts in the Philippines.

"Mr Maeda, in a meeting with Pangandaman, mentioned the JBIC's financing options, which include Green Finance and Social Impact Finance that helped countries fast-track their transition to renewable energy," added the statement.

The Philippines has recently become an LNG importer with the floating storage unit (FSU) "Ish" commissioned as the first LNG terminal in Batangas Bay and with a second vessel for a separate project scheduled to arrive in July.

The San Miguel group is operator of the 1,200 megawatt Ilijan gas-fired power plant being supplied with regasified LNG from the FSU.

San Miguel Global Power has a capacity agreement with the LNG import facility developer, Atlantic, Gulf & Pacific Company (AG&P), and the FSU operates from a berth near the Ilijan power plant.

The commercial operations of the LNG import terminal, and the second venture planned from July by power group First Gen Corp., will help ease gas shortages that have led to some power cuts. ■

Expro Group wins five-year wells work contract in Uganda for landmark African regional energy

Expro Group Holdings, the global energy services provider, has been awarded a five-year well intervention and integrity contract with French major TotalEnergies in the East African nation of Uganda and covering the multi-well Tilenga project.

Expro secured a contract worth over $30 million for slickline services with its ability to provide environmental solutions and a commitment to national recruitment in Uganda in line with a local development plan.

The company will work in collaboration with TotalEnergies and the Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU), the nation's energy regulator.

Analysts note that Uganda has an energy production opportunity through mostly oil to boost funds for development while other East African nations like Tanzania and Mozambique have the gas assets for LNG export ventures.

"Expro's solution placed significant focus on the location's sensitivity near a national park," said the company listed on the New York Stock Exchange in describing its work scope for the Tilenga project.

The company is providing "environmentally sympathetic lower-carbon operational solutions" compared with current market alternatives.

"Expro has also invested in a new operational facility in-country, supported by investment in people and training to help exceed local expectations," added Expro.

The Houston, Texas-based company said that work was scheduled to begin right away with Expro initially supporting drilling activity followed by production optimization, integrity and well workover support.

Intervention units

Expro has designed four well intervention units to deliver a single operational solution for slickline and braided line in a cased hole environment across the life of the well.

The solution is designed to reduce equipment footprint and equivalent CO^2 emissions, while delivering improved efficiency.

The Tilenga project covers six fields, with over 400 wells planned across multiple pads. Drilling will start this year and continue for five years.

"We are delighted to further develop our relationship with TotalEnergies through work on this key project, which reinforces Expro's ability to partner in frontier field developments in support of energy security," said Iain Farley, Expro's Regional Vice President for Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa.

"Expro's solution was designed and engineered with the specific needs of this project in mind, taking into account the environmental sensitivities of the location and the need to support the project's overall environmental and social objectives," added Farley.

"It builds on our current operations in East Africa and on many years of successful delivery on key projects in locations such as Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Mozambique and Egypt," he stated. ■