LNG Unlimited

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Europeans move to increase own LNG capacity and pipeline gas

German utility Uniper and Norway's Equinor initiate plans to increase Europe's gas availability

LNG News Editor

German utility Uniper has arranged increased capacity rights at Dutch Gate LNG import terminal in Rotterdam while Equinor confirmed that the Hammerfest LNG plant was resuming production in mid-May and would be part of the Norwegian company's new planned natural gas production surge for Europe.

Equinor said that in addition to increased pipeline natural gas exports and the re-start of Hammerfest LNG, adjustments in the gas field permits would also increase the robustness of the production in the fields exporting via the Kollsnes processing plant.

Barents gas

Hammerfest LNG is scheduled to come back on stream following repairs from a fire in September 2020 and will provide more than 6 billion cubic metres of gas per year from the Barents Sea.

Equinor and its partners, together with the Norwegian authorities, will change production permits to allow higher gas production from the Troll, Oseberg and Heidrun fields to be maintained through the Northern Hemisphere summer months.

Uniper, which is based in Düsseldorf, said it would increase its capacity rights at the Gate terminal by 1 billion cubic metres per annum from October 1 and for a period of three years.

European natural gas buyers are seeking to diversify procurement options in the face of reducing pipeline natural gas volumes being transported from Russia because of the war in Ukraine.

Uniper-chartered carriers include 'LNG Rosenrot' and sistership 'LNG Schneeweisschen' pictured above

The Rotterdam regasification terminal is a joint venture between Dutch utility Gasunie and Royal Vopak, the global energy storage giant.

The facility has been operational since September 2011 and its initial throughput capacity was 12 Bcm per annum and expansion plans will increase this to 16 Bcm every year.

Uniper said the latest deal at the Dutch Gate terminal builds on a long-lasting relationship between the companies.

In anticipation of a tighter natural gas market going forward, Uniper and Gate had already committed to a capacity increase of 1 Bcm per annum starting in October 2024.

"In these challenging times Uniper continues to broaden the access of its global LNG portfolio into Northwest Europe to fortify the security of supply for Germany and the Netherlands," said Uniper Chief Commercial Officer Niek den Hollander.

Uniper's European regasification capacity also includes capacity bookings at the UK LNG import terminal at the Isle of Grain in Kent.

The Isle of Grain facility is operated by the UK's National Grid plc and is the largest in Europe in terms of storage.

Uniper said that in 2021 it traded more than 350 LNG cargoes worldwide and operated seven LNG carriers.

Gate Managing Director, Wim Groenendijk, said the latest transaction with Uniper was a prime example of close German-Dutch cooperation with concrete action in times of emergency.

"We will continue to explore on a daily basis how to best help our customers and society in serving the LNG and gas markets," added Groenendijk.

"The LNG arriving at Gate terminal is of great importance for the gas supply of the Netherlands and the whole of Northwest Europe," he declared.

Under Norway's natural gas supply boost, production from the Troll field can be increased by up to 1 Bcm of gas in the event of loss of production on other fields in the area.

Part of Equinor's plan also involved the postponed from May until September of planned turnarounds on four platforms on the Oseberg field. ■

UNLIMITED AGENDA

LNG data shows Europe dominating as UK overtakes Mexico in overall US standings

LNG News Editor

The US Department of Energy published its latest liquefied natural gas monthly export data showing prices for the plants and with the United Kingdom, Spain, France and Turkey leading the monthly destinations, while the UK has overtaken US neighbour Mexico in the overall standings.

The DoE data just published for January 2022 showed 108 US cargoes were delivered versus 111 in the previous month and 92 shipments in January 2021.

Mugardos LNG terminal in Galicia in northern Spain

10,000 cargoes

The total number of US cargoes delivered worldwide since February 2016 now amounts to 4,042 shipments, or 10,090.1 billion cubic feet of natural gas.

A further 909 ISO containers have been shipped to nations in the Caribbean and Latin America from ports in Florida.

The average price at the export points of the six US plants came to $8.23 per million British thermal units in January 2022 versus $9.26 per MMBtu in the previous month, according to the DoE January LNG report.

The Sabine Pass plant remained the volume leader in January 2022 with five Trains on stream (and six since February 2022) and supplying 38 cargoes, followed by Corpus Christi 20, Cameron 20, Freeport 19, Cove Point eight and Elba Island three.

Shipments from the Cheniere Energy's Corpus Christi plant in Texas cost the most for January 2022, averaging $9.12 per MMBtu versus $11.92 per MMBtu in December 2021 and for the 12 months-to-date the Corpus Christi shipments fetched an average of $8.01 per MMBtu from the point of export.

The average prices for each of the five other plants (from the export point) from highest to lowest in January 2022 were: Sabine Pass (Louisiana) $8.39 ($8.94, December); Cove Point (Maryland) $8.33 per MMBtu ($9.27, December); Freeport LNG (Texas) $7.87 per MMBtu ($8.96, December); Cameron LNG (Louisiana) $7.40 per MMBtu ($7.59, December); and Elba Island in Georgia $6.70 per MMBtu ($8.41 December).

Leading recipients

The top five countries of destination, representing 63.3 percent of total US LNG exports in January 2022 were: the UK (55.9 Bcf - 16 cargoes), Spain (49.9 Bcf - 15 cargoes), France 49.0 Bcf - 14 cargoes), Turkey (38.4 Bcf - 13 cargoes) and South Korea (25.1 Bcm - 7 cargoes).

The list of the Top 10 countries of destination overall since 2016 through November 2021 showed three Asian nations, South Korea, Japan and China still filling the top three spots, while the UK has now overtaken Mexico into sixth place in the overall standings.

The top 10 recipients of US LNG by overall numbers of cargoes at the end of January 2022 were: 1) South Korea 418 cargoes. 2) Japan 306. 3) China 257; 4) Spain 214. 5) Brazil 195 (includes split cargoes) 6) UK 175. 7) Mexico 162. 6) 8) India 153. 9) Turkey 139. 10). Chile 124.

US Government issues two new LNG export authorizations for more Cheniere Energy cargoes

The US Department of Energy has issued two long-term orders authorizing more liquefied natural gas shipments from the existing liquefaction and export facilities owned by Cheniere Energy at Sabine Pass in Louisiana and Corpus Christi in Texas.

The two DoE orders allow Sabine Pass and Corpus Christi more feed gas to liquefy and export. Sabine Pass started operations in February 2016.

Flexibility

The Cheniere plants can now have the additional flexibility to export the equivalent of 0.72 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas as LNG to any country with which the US does not have a free trade agreement, including all of Europe.

When US LNG export plants were being developed for the first time in the lower 48 states the DoE was tasked with making sure there were export limits that protected US domestic natural gas needs as well.

"While US exporters are already exporting at or near their maximum capacity, with the issuances, every operating US LNG export project has approval from DoE to export its full capacity to any country where not prohibited by US law or policy," said the DoE.

The statement noted that the US was now the top global exporter of LNG and exports are set to grow an additional 20 percent beyond current levels by the end of 2022 as additional capacity comes on stream.

In January 2022, the US supplied more than half of the LNG import needs of Europe.

"With the expected rise in LNG exports, the DoE is particularly focused on driving down methane emissions in the oil and gas sector both domestically and abroad," added the statement.

It declared that US LNG remained an important component in global energy security.

"The DoE remains committed to finding ways to help our allies and trading partners with the energy supplies they need," said the statement.

Cheniere announced in early February 2022 the completion of Train 6 at Sabine Pass in Cameron Parish in Louisiana, formally taking nameplate capacity to 27 million tonnes per annum.

The Corpus Christy facility has nameplate capacity of 13.5 MTPA from three Trains.

Cheniere recently initiated a lump sum, turnkey, engineering, procurement and construction contract with US LNG and energy engineering firm Bechtel Inc. for the Corpus Christi LNG plant expansion.

Bechtel has started early engineering, procurement and other site work for the Corpus Christi expansion, known by Cheniere as the Stage III Project.

Azule entity created by BP-Eni for Angola assets

UK major BP and Italian energy company Eni have agreed to form a 50-50 joint venture company in the LNG-producing state of Angola in southwest Africa called Azule Energy.

Azule Energy will now be the holding entity for the Angolan assets of both oil and gas companies.

"Azule Energy will be a new international energy company, independently managed, with more than 200,000 barrels equivalent a day of net oil and natural gas production and 2 billion barrels equivalent of net resources," said a statement.

"It is expected to be Angola's largest producer, holding stakes in 16 licences, as well as participating in the Angola LNG joint venture," added BP and Eni.

The agreement on the new company followed a memorandum of understanding on the issue signed in May 2021.

The European companies said that Azule Energy would have a strong pipeline of new projects starting up over the next few years, including the new Agogo and PAJ oil projects in Blocks 15/06 and 31 respectively offshore Angola.

"It will also develop the New Gas Consortium (NGC), the first non-associated gas project in the country, which will support the energy needs of Angola's growing economy, its decarbonization path and strengthen its role as a global LNG player," stated BP and Eni.

Angola is already the second-largest oil producer in Sub-Saharan Africa and uses associated gas to produce LNG source at its liquefaction plant, operated by the main shareholder, the US major Chevron Corp.

Gas pipelines company Williams seals $950M deal to boost LNG plans

LNG News Editor

Williams Companies, the US natural gas pipelines and assets operator, has agreed a $950 million deal to expand its East Texas presence in the Haynesville Shale and giving more access to Gulf Coast LNG markets.

The Williams deal acquires the Haynesville gathering and processing assets of Trace Midstream, a portfolio company of Quantum Energy Partners.

Alan Armstrong, President and CEO of Williams Companies

Supply basins

Williams, based in Tulsa, Oklahoma, is engaged in natural gas and liquids gathering, processing, interstate transportation and storage and with major positions in main US supply basins,

"The combined Williams and Trace assets provide expanded scale in one of the largest growth basins in the country, increasing the company's gathering capacity in the Haynesville basin from 1.8 billion cubic feet per day to over 4 Bcf per day," said Williams.

Williams also benefits from additional volumes committed to its Louisiana Energy Gateway project, designed to gather gas in the Haynesville and connect to markets, including the Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line (Transco) and LNG exports.

The transaction includes a memorandum of understanding signed to form a joint venture partnership with Quantum Energy Partners in support the construction of the Louisiana Energy Gateway.

Williams explained that as another part of the transaction, a Trace customer and Quantum affiliate, Rockcliff Energy, has agreed to a long-term capacity commitment in support of the company Louisiana Energy Gateway project.

The project is designed to gather responsibly-sourced natural gas produced in the Haynesville and connect it to premium Transco markets, as well as growing industrial and LNG export demand along the Gulf Coast.

"We are excited for the opportunity to help Rockcliff continue their success and connect them to growing markets with Quantum as our new partner," said Alan Armstrong, the Williams President and Chief Executive.

New Fortress Energy secures LNG from two Louisiana LNG projects

New Fortress Energy Inc., the New York-based LNG-for-power project company, has signed two 20-year sale and purchase agreements with US company Venture Global, owner of the existing Calcasieu Pass LNG plant and developer of three other liquefaction and export projects in Louisiana.

Under the deals, Venture Global will supply 2 million tonnes per annum of LNG on a free on board (FOB) basis from its Louisiana plants.

Under the first agreement, NFE will purchase 1 MTPA of LNG from Venture Global's Plaquemines LNG export facility being constructed on the Mississippi River, south of New Orleans, for a term of 20 years.

In addition to 1 MTPA from Plaquemines, NFE agreed to purchase 1 MTPA of LNG from Venture Global's CP2 LNG project to be located in Cameron Parish, adjacent to the Calcasieu Pass facility.

"We are pleased to partner with Venture Global as we advance our mission of providing customers around the world with access to low-carbon natural gas and affordable electricity," said Wes Edens, Chairman and Chief Executive of NFE.

"These volumes support our plan to expand and diversify our stable natural gas supply portfolio to meet the growing needs of our customers in a structurally short global natural gas market," added Edens. In December 2021, Venture Global filed a formal application requesting authorization from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to site, construct and operate the 20 MTPA nameplate capacity CP2 LNG plant.

"Venture Global is proud to enter into a long-term LNG partnership with New Fortress Energy," said Michael Sabel, CEO of Venture Global.

"Our companies share a commitment to keeping energy markets well supplied while also advancing clean energy goals, through the export of low-cost US LNG to emerging economies," added Sabel.

NEWS BRIEFS

Quake shuts Soma LNG

Japan Petroleum Exploration Co. (Japex) said it suspended operations at its Soma LNG terminal after an earthquake the previous day off the coast of Fukushima Prefecture. "There has been no damage to the surrounding area, such as gas leakage from the terminal," stated Japex. The terminal receives and stores LNG from overseas and regasified cargoes serve a nearby power plant, or can be distributed along the coast or loaded onto trucks.

Renergen share deal

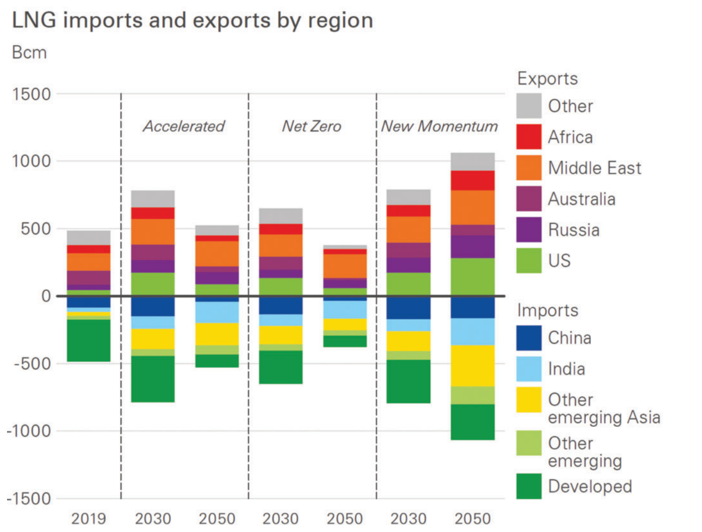
Renergen, the South African developer of the Virginia Gas Project in the Free State with helium and LNG production planned, said on March 14 it had lined up Ivanhoe Mines, a Canadian-listed owner of South African mining interests, as a potential strategic partner after it acquired a 4.35 percent stake in Renergen. "Ivanhoe is an ideal partner to stand alongside Renergen in the development of its world-class helium reserves at Virginia," said David King, Chairman of Renergen, which is listed on the Johannesburg and Australian securities exchanges.

Equinor oil decision

Equinor has decided to stop all trading in Russian oil after previously quitting projects with Russia's Rosneft that will lead to earnings impairments. "This means that Equinor will not enter any new trades or engage in the transporting of oil and oil products from Russia," said Equinor, which is also an LNG producer. However, the company pointed out that it had certain contractual commitments arising out of contracts entered into prior to the invasion of Ukraine. ■

BP's Energy Outlook 2022 has LNG and upstream oil and gas investment as priorities and even more so now

LNG News Editor



UK major's forecasts of LNG market in billion cubic metres

UK major BP says that natural declines in existing hydrocarbon production imply continuing investment in new upstream oil and natural gas is required over the next 30 years and the LNG sector is expected to see substantial growth.

These assertions are contained in the "Energy Outlook 2022" report, which adds helpfully that it "was largely prepared before the military action by Russia in Ukraine" and does not include any analysis of the possible implications of those developments on economic growth or global energy markets.

Valuable guide

If anything, the events make BP's Outlook a more valuable guide to the future importance of LNG supplies to Europe and Asia as well as the need for substantial upstream spending rather than a stone-age-style rush to net zero with no adequate energy replacements nor technologies in place.

Analysts say that one point that can be taken is that the investment in upstream oil and gas is even more crucial as Russian supplies will increasingly point to Asia in the future.

"Growth in liquefied natural gas plays a central role in increasing emerging markets' access to natural gas," said BP.

The BP Outlook is focussed on three main scenarios: Accelerated, Net Zero and New Momentum.

"These scenarios are not predictions of what is likely to happen or what BP would like to happen. Rather they explore the possible implications of different judgements and assumptions concerning the nature of the energy transition," the company explained.

LNG trade grows strongly over the first 10 years of the 30-year outlook, increasing by around two-thirds in the best-case scenario and by one-third if demand is completely regulated by net-zero aims.

BP states that the vast majority of this LNG growth is driven by increasing gas demand in emerging Asia (China, India and other emerging Asia) as they switch away from coal and, outside of China, continue to industrialize.

"LNG imports are the main incremental source of this increased use of gas, accounting for 70-75 percent of the increased gas consumption in emerging Asia out to 2030," said the report.

"LNG imports continue to expand in the 'New Momentum' scenario, rising to over 1,000 billion cubic metres by the end of the outlook, supported by increasing imports into India and other emerging Asia, and continuing strong imports into Europe," said the report.

BP added that the growth in LNG exports over the first part of the outlook is driven by the US, which accounts for over 40 percent of the increase in LNG exports to 2030 in all three scenarios.

It states that growth in LNG exports is also supported by sizeable increases in supply from the Middle East, Russia and Africa.

BP's scenarios are based on existing and developing technologies and do not consider the possibility of entirely new or unknown technologies emerging.

"The Outlook can be used to identify aspects of the energy transition which are common across the main scenarios and so may provide a guide as to how the energy system may evolve over the next 30 years," said the report.

Oil market

BP also forecasts that oil demand increases to above its pre-COVID-19 level before falling further out.

The company said the shifting pattern of global oil supplies over the outlook is driven by contrasting trends in US tight oil and output from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

"US tight oil recovers over the first part of the outlook, after which it begins to fall and OPEC's market share gradually increases," said BP.

The report sees US tight oil, including natural gas liquids (NGLs), rebounding back from the impact of Covid-19, with output peaking above pre-Covid levels at around 15M barrels per day during the first decade of the outlook in all three scenarios. ■

French gas grid company GRTgaz offsets less Russian supplies with LNG and Norway flows

LNG News Editor

GRTgaz, the French natural gas transmission company with three liquefied natural gas import terminals under its control through subsidiary Elengy, said it had seen a shortfall in Russian supplies and this was being offset with LNG cargoes and additional pipeline flows from Norway.

"We are not currently experiencing any difficulties in supplying or transporting gas over the French network," said GRTGaz.

French Fos Cavaou LNG terminal sited west of Marseille

Inputs

"Onshore gas inputs from northeast France, the location at which Russian pipeline gas arrives in the country, are continuing, but at levels below those seen in previous years," explained the company, headquartered at Bois-Colombes in the northwest suburbs of Paris.

"This decrease is being offset by sustained supplies of LNG, as well as pipeline gas supplies from Norway," stated GRTGaz.

The company noted that the European Union natural gas market was potentially fast-changing and GRTGaz was making sure that it had solutions for all eventualities.

"As France's main gas transport operator, GRTgaz is part of the system in place to ensure a secure supply," explained the company.

"As such, it works closely alongside the Ministry for the Ecological Transition, supervising the situation," it added.

GRTGaz was also working with other French and European gas infrastructure companies, under the supervision of the public authorities, on developing solutions should Russian gas supplies cease.

"We aim to be able to maintain our storage levels over the forthcoming months and provide consumers with gas until next winter," it stated.

"We are also working with those of our clients who might find themselves affected, ensuring that the measures in place in the event of load-shedding for consumers on the transport and distribution networks being required are properly shared. These measures would only be applicable as a last resort," declared GRTGaz.

GRTgaz said in its annual review that terminal subsidiary Elengy received 176 LNG cargoes in 2021 at the three terminals in Western and Southern France at Montoir-de-Bretagne, Fos Tonkin and Fos Cavaou. France's fourth import terminal is at the Channel port of Dunkirk.

The terminals also handled six cargo re-loadings, 10 trans-shipments and 14,715 tanker truck LNG loadings during the year.

GRTgaz ensures the pipeline transportation of gas throughout France, though in the southwest the grid is run by regional network company Teréga. GRTgaz had been receiving fewer transits last year, whether to Spain, which benefited from very sustained supplies from Algeria or to Switzerland (and Italy), which benefited from the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline carrying natural gas from Azerbaijan on the Caspian Sea to southern Italy.

Large network

GRTgaz is the EU's second-largest European natural gas transporter after Italy with 32,500 kilometres of pipelines and 640 terawatt hours of gas transported in 2021.

The Italian natural gas pipeline network is almost 50,000km in length.

The other GRTgaz subsidiaries include GRTgaz Deutschland, operator of the German MEGAL transmission network.

The MEGAL pipeline system is 1,160km in length and runs from the German-French border at Medelsheim via the Czech Republic's border point with Germany at Waidhaus to the bi-directional cross-border point at the German-Austrian border in Oberkappel.

The MEGAL pipeline system consists of two pipelines: the MEGAL Nord (North) pipeline and the MEGAL Süd (South) pipeline. ■

Japanese imports drop by 12 percent

Japanese liquefied natural gas imports plunged almost 12 percent last month as cargoes from Australia maintained momentum and those from other regions dropped with the biggest faller being US shipments.

Japanese LNG imports in February 2022 amounted to 7.10 million tonnes, or 104 cargoes, compared with 8.07MT, or 118 shipments, in February 2021 2021, according to the preliminary trade figures from Japan's Ministry of Finance.

Deliveries of LNG to Japan in January 2022 had tumbled by 15.8 percent to 6.78MT, just under 100 cargoes, compared with 8.06MT in January 2021.

The cargoes received in February cost 676.22 billion yen ($5.72Bln), which was 65.3 percent more than in February 2021 when the costs were 409.06Bln yen ($3.46Bln).

The recent changes in Japan's LNG delivery system came after the nation formally ceded the No. 1 LNG import position in 2021 to China.

Shipments to Chinese terminals in 2021 had amounted to 78.93MT which was 18.3 percent more than in 2020.

Japan's Finance Ministry confirmed annual cargo deliveries to Japan as 74.31MT, down 0.2 percent on 2020 and 4.62MT less that the Chinese total for 2021.

Shipments of LNG to Japan in February 2022 from Asian countries dropped by 5.9 percent year-on-year to 1.83MT.

Middle East cargo deliveries from nations like Qatar were also much lower, down 28.9 percent to 854,000 tonnes.

LNG importer Thailand to become new Myanmar gas field operator

LNG News Editor

Yadana gas supplies are crucial for Thailand and Myanmar

Thailand's state-owned energy company said the Yadana natural gas project in neighbouring Myanmar was key to the energy security of both Southeast Asian nations and the Thais will take over the operatorship after the withdrawal of France's TotalEnergies over human rights issues.

The Yadana project currently produces natural gas at the rate of around 770 million standard cubic feet per day and accounts for a crucial part of electricity generation in Myanmar.

Reliance

PTTEP explained that Thailand also relied on this source of energy as around 550 million standard cubic feet per day from the field is transported to 12 power plants for electricity generation, serving the demand of 11 million people living in the west and central parts of Thailand.

"The amount of this imported gas contributed to about 11 percent of Thailand's gas demand," declared the company whose formal name is PTT Exploration and Production Public Company Ltd.

PTTEP, which is a growing LNG importer as the economy develops and has a stake in the Mozambique LNG project, said it had carefully considered the status of the Yadana field and placed the utmost importance on its continuity.

"We will prevent disruption to energy demand since the Yadana project is a pivotal source of natural gas supply to the livelihoods of the people of both Myanmar and Thailand," stated PTTEP.

"ASEAN countries have been cooperating and supporting each other in various aspects, working hand in hand in a way that will help develop economies and improve the quality of lives of their people," explained PTTEP.

"Developing the energy industry for both Thailand and Myanmar, particularly in the area of petroleum exploration and production has been one of the main collaborations over the past 30 years," said the Thai company.

The Thais emphasized that the existence of such a reliable source of energy was vital in satisfying domestic consumption and for improving people's standards of living.

"To this regard, natural gas from the Gulf of Moattama, has been supplied to generate electricity for both households and industrial sectors in Thailand and Myanmar, covering medical service and public health, education, transportation, communication and telecommunication," said PTTEP.

Yadana field withdrawal includes TotalEnergies employee transfers

French major TotalEnergies confirmed its withdrawal strategy from the Yadana natural gas field in the Asian state Myanmar after Thailand's state energy company PTTEP said it was taking over the operatorship of the gas field.

TotalEnergies said that since its Myanmar pull-out decision in January 2022 on human rights concerns it had initiated a due diligence process.

"This was to ensure a responsible withdrawal for its stakeholders in Myanmar, particularly its employees and the local communities that have been supported by TotalEnergies for many years through its role as an operator in the Moattama Gas Transportation Company (MGTC) pipeline area.

The company said that on March 14 Thailand's PTTEP had confirmed its willingness to take over as operator of the Yadana field and MGTC and, in line with this decision, to increase its direct stake in Yadana by taking over TotalEnergies' equity share.

"Chevron has also decided to take over TotalEnergies' equity share, thereby increasing its stake in Myanmar," the company explained.

"TotalEnergies has chosen to withdraw from Myanmar without seeking any financial compensation for its assets," it confirmed.

In addition, the company added that PTTEP had expressed its willingness to take on all staff currently employed by the TotalEnergies affiliate in Myanmar.

"TotalEnergies is working closely with PTTEP to ensure that the transition occurs in a fair and orderly manner," said the statement.

"TotalEnergies will help all those who wish to transfer to the new operator and will ensure that they continue to be employed under the same conditions," it added.

LNG buyer Naturgy holds AGM and hears CEO address Ukraine issue amid a prices initiative

LNG News Editor

Naturgy Group, the Spanish global utility company with LNG supplies from the US and Russia and natural gas and utility businesses in South America as well as renewables in the US and Australia, has held a successful annual meeting in Madrid where it revealed continuing help for customers hit by soaring bills.

Naturgy said it was strengthening its commitment to society in the current situation with the continuation of its initiative to sell electricity at a guaranteed fixed price far below the existing pool price.

Package

The company said that the package had already been granted to almost 400,000 customers.

Naturgy Chairman and Chief Executive Francisco Reynés chaired the company's gathering on March 15 in Madrid.

The AGM was held in hybrid format, both in-person and online, with about 1,000 shareholders in attendance to hear that 2021 targets had been met despite a volatile energy situation.

Naturgy CEO Reynés (centre) and colleagues in Madrid

Naturgy said it closed the year having achieved all its forecasts. Revenue was €22.14 billion euros ($22.22Bln), while gross earnings were €3.98Bln and net profit €1.23Bln.

The company continued to improve in terms of solvency and liquidity over the course of last year. At the end of December, the net debt held by the company was €12.83Bln.

"Recent events stemming from the invasion of Ukraine have intensified the volatility in this sector worldwide to unprecedented levels of stress," CEO Reynés told shareholders.

"As a company committed to all our stakeholders, we have a duty to maintain our commitment to society and to continue our process of transformation in order to adapt and anticipate," he added.

Naturgy had said after its fourth-quarter earnings that it would split into two separately listed companies, one focused on infrastructure and the other handling power generation.

Naturgy's LNG portfolio includes 2.5 million tonnes per annum of delivered ex-ship (DES) cargoes through to 2038 from the Yamal LNG plant in Arctic Russia, operated by Novatek.

Its regular long-term supplies also come from 3.5 MTPA of free-on-board shipments from Cheniere Energy Sabine Pass plant in Louisiana.

The company additionally controls a fleet of 12 LNG carriers for deliveries which also come from countries like Trinidad & Tobago and Nigeria.

In his speech to shareholders, Francisco Reynés highlighted the milestones reached by the company despite a tumultuous macro and energy context. He said 2021 was "a year of recovery" within the context of far-reaching changes in the energy sector.

UK's National Grid seeks waiver to complete small LNG liquefaction plant in Rhode Island

National Grid LNG LLC, a US subsidiary of the UK company National Grid, has petitioned the US Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to enable it to progress with the Fields Point peak-shaving liquefaction project in Providence, Rhode Island.

The petition to the FERC relates to regulations governing interstate pipeline sales of natural gas.

Specifics

Specifically, NGLNG requests a waiver to permit NGLNG to make sales of test gas used during the commissioning of its Fields Point liquefaction project facilities.

"NGLNG respectfully requests a shortened comment period and expeditious action by the Commission by March 28, 2022 so that NGLNG can complete the arrangements for acquiring the gas supply for the testing and commissioning of the liquefaction facilities authorized in this docket," the company explained.

NGLNG owns and operates an unbundled LNG storage facility. All of the LNG stored is currently delivered by the customers in trucks.

The customers' stored LNG is redelivered to them as vapor via displacement through the distribution system of the Narragansett Electric Company to the Algonquin Gas Transmission interstate pipeline.

National Grid plc in the UK owns and operates the UK Isle of Grain LNG import terminal, Europe's largest in terms of storage, and located on the Medway River, southeast of London.

The UK groups US activities serve the energy needs of more than 20 million people through its networks in New York and Massachusetts as well as Rhode Island.

Natural gas flows

National Grid said that once completed, the Fields Point liquefaction project will provide another path for the flow of gas to the storage facility by allowing natural gas vapor to be transported by pipeline to the facility to be liquefied and stored.

The capacity of the LNG storage facility has been fully contracted to three local distribution companies under long-term firm contracts since 1999.

"Given the nature of the LNG storage operations, NGLNG has never had occasion to make sales of operational gas and does not currently anticipate the need to do so in the future," said the company.

"However, in order to test and commission the new liquefaction facility, NGLNG will need vapor for test gas to be liquefied and placed into the LNG storage tank and a smaller amount of feed gas necessary to perform the liquefaction process," declared National Grid.

The company said that once the liquefaction facility was commissioned, all of the vapor for the liquefaction process will be supplied by the firm and interruptible liquefaction customers.