LNG Unlimited

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EU LNG leaders begin offshore gas pipeline study for Spain-Italy link

SNAM and Spanish counterpart company Enagás will undertake project feasibility study

LNG News Editor

SNAM and Enagás could combine eight LNG terminals

The Italian and Spanish LNG importers and natural gas pipeline operators, SNAM and Enagás, have signed an accord on establishing a direct offshore gas pipeline connecting Spain with Italy as a way overcoming the European Union energy crisis worsened by the Ukraine conflict.

SNAM said the memorandum of understanding with Enagás was signed on May 11 and jointly mandates a technical feasibility study aimed at the potential construction of the pipeline to further diversify energy supply towards Italy and the rest of Europe.

LNG super hub

The company stated that it was not active in the Russian market and did not hold investments in Russian companies, including joint ventures.

"At the moment, flows from Russia are continuing uninterrupted, but the uncertainty and fear of possible impacts on supply have sparked a significant rise in gas and oil prices," SNAM noted.

SNAM, whose name comes from Societa Nazionale Metanodotti (National Pipeline Company), operates the gas grid and the onshore Panigaglia LNG facility in the northwest near Genoa as well as having a 49 percent stake in the LNG facility, the "FSRU Toscana", moored off the Italian coast between the cities of Livorno and Pisa.

Enagás as well as being the Spanish grid operator also runs most of the Spanish LNG terminals and is a key destination for US LNG exports. SNAM revealed the Spain-Italy gas pipeline accord in its first-quarter earnings report where it posted a 3.8 percent increase in net profits to €325 million ($340M) from €313M in the same three months of 2021.

Total revenues, net of energy costs, amounted to €808M in the first quarter of 2022, up 14.8 percent on the same period of 2021.

"The increase is attributable to the growth of our energy transition businesses, notably energy efficiency activities and the regulated businesses and due in part to one-off income connected with the sale of gas inventories from past years owned by SNAM," said the Milan-based company.

SNAM said that on LNG imports the Panigaglia terminal received only 0.13 billion cubic metres of LNG to regasify, well down on the 0.38 Bcm total in the first quarter of 2021.

Only three LNG carriers were unloaded at Panigaglia versus seven shipments in the prior-year quarter.

"The reduction in the volume of activity is attributable to price dynamics and, in particular, the increase in Algerian LNG flows to France and Spain compared with Italy," explained SNAM.

"Beginning in April 2022, this trend reversed, with a consequent increase in carrier unloading and volumes regasified by GNL Italia," it added.

Storage and outlook

Stefano Venier, SNAM's Chief Executive, said the first-quarter results underscored the sound foundation of SNAM's core business.

"Our transport, storage and regasification infrastructure confirms its key role in the current complex geopolitical environment," added Venier.

SNAM said that the volume of gas handled within the storage system in the first quarter amounted to 6.10 Bcm, down 0.45 Bcm or 6.9 percent compared with the first quarter of 2021.

"The reduction is mainly attributable to a decline in withdrawals from storage as a result of the milder temperatures recorded in the first quarter of the year compared with the corresponding period of 2021," the company said.

Natural gas injected into the National Gas Transportation Network in the first quarter totalled 19.46 Bcm, up 1.24 Bcm or 6.8 percent, due to a reduction in recourse to storage in response to the increase in gas demand in Italy and an expansion of exports. ■

UNLIMITED AGENDA

SHIPPING

Brittany Ferries to put newbuilt vessels on favoured UK-France routes 2

IMPORTS

US LNG data shows France ahead of Mexico and India in cargoes 3

UPSTREAM

Algeria holds key meetings with its Turkey and Italy focused on LNG 5

UTILITIES

Albania-Bulgarian gas firms sign deal at event attended by Secretary Pompeo 6

TERMINALS

Ennore facility's owner Indian Oil reports profits rise and record revenue 7

EXECUTIVES

Shell's Jason Klein who worked on US Elba Island project heads LNG Canada 9

Brittany Ferries to put most modern LNG-fuelled vessels will be on Portsmouth-to-France routes

LNG News Editor

Brittany Ferries, the French line that links the UK with Spain and France, has signed an LNG fuel supply deal for newbuild roll-on-roll-off passenger and freight vessels connecting Portsmouth in England with two French ports.

Brittany Ferries has signed a long-term agreement with Dutch LNG bunkering company, Titan LNG, for the supply of LNG and liquified bio methane (LBM) for two new hybrid Ro-Pax ships that Brittany Ferries will operate between England and France from 2025.

The hybrid Ro-Pax newbuilds to be delivered from 2025

Destinations

The ferries will serve established routes connecting Portsmouth with Saint-Malo in Britanny and with Ouistreham in Normandy.

The two 194.7-metre, 1,400-passenger LNG-hybrid ships will join the fleet in 2024 and 2025 and would replace two of the longest-serving vessels, the “Bretagne” delivered in 1989 and the “Normandie” in 1992.

They will follow into service two new LNG-fuelled ships, the “Salamanca”, which was delivered in March this year, and the “Santoña” which will join the fleet in 2023.

“The newest hybrid vessels will have a large battery power system of 10 MWh for propulsion and manoeuvring in port and an 8 megawatts electric shore connection that will allow charging in port, when shore infrastructure allows,” explained the French company.

“As well as significantly cutting emissions, hybrid propulsion promises less noise and a smoother ride for passengers,” added Britanny Ferries.

Frederic Pouget, Operations and Ports Director of Brittany Ferries said LNG enables an immediate and significant improvement in air quality and a reduction in greenhouse-gas emissions.

“They are greener tomorrow because they can run on fuels like LBM and, later, future fuels like hydrogen-derived liquid methane, all without adaptations,” added Pouget.

“Our new vessels will automatically become greener and there is great potential for expanding the development of the LBM value chain with Titan LNG,” declared Pouget.

This partnership with Titan LNG, which has as its main supply base the Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp (ARA) shipping area in northwest Europe, marks the significant expansion of Titan’s operations in the English Channel which will enhance the availability of LNG and LBM.

“We believe strong partnerships are essential for the maritime industry to successfully decarbonise,” said Régine Portocarero, Titan LNG’s Business Development Manager.

“Furthermore, thanks to the unique farmer-shareholder ownership structure that underpins Brittany Ferries we see great potential in available stocks for local LBM production,” she added.

The Britanny 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. ■

GasLog LNG reports rise in ship income amid Greek FLNG terminal progress and new charters

GasLog LNG Ltd., the operator with a fleet 35 LNG carriers under its control and with four others under construction, reported a rise in revenues but a decline in first-quarter profits to $71.05 million compared with $84.24M in the prior-year quarter.

“The decrease in profit is mainly attributable to the decrease in profit from operations, which is mainly affected by an impairment loss,” said the company.

Ship deliveries

GasLog posted an increase in quarterly revenues to $213.72M compared with 205.32M in the same three months of 2021.

“The increase in revenues is mainly attributable to an increase from the deliveries of wholly-owned GasLog vessels. This increase was partially offset by decreased revenues mainly from GasLog Partners’ vessels operating in the spot market in the first quarter of 2022,” explained the Piraeus, Greece-based company.

Among the GasLog fleet of 39 LNG ships, 19 are owned by GasLog, five have been sold and leased back by GasLog under long-term and of the remaining 15 LNG carriers, 14 are owned by the company’s subsidiary, GasLog Partners, and one has been sold and leased back by GasLog Partners.

GasLog completed a merger in June 2021 with BlackRock’s Global Energy and Power Infrastructure (GEPIF) fund and de-listed its common shares from the New York Stock Exchange.

GasLog’s ownership structure has three main shareholders in both companies, parent GasLog Ltd and subsidiary GasLog Partners LP.

They are the Greek Livanos family with 55 percent, the Monaco-based Onassis Foundation with 12 percent and BlackRock’s GEPIF, holder of 45 percent of the equity.

As of the end of March 2022, GasLog had $3.5 billion of debts outstanding under its credit facilities and bond agreements, of which $234.9M is repayable within one year.

Among first-quarter highlights, the Greek floating LNG terminal project including GasLog and led by the company Gastrade SA to deploy two Floating Storage and Regasification Units (FSRUs) off Greece, was making progress after a final investment decision.

Alexandroupolis

“GasLog, through its subsidiary GAS-fifteen Ltd., issued a final notice to proceed to Keppel Shipyard (Singapore) to convert the ‘GasLog Chelsea’, a 153,600 cubic metres tri-fuel, diesel-electric propulsion (TFDE) LNG carrier built in 2010, into an FSRU in connection with the FID taken by Gastrade for the construction of a regasification terminal in Alexandroupolis,” explained the company. ■

Sempra signs deal with Poles for cargoes

Sempra Infrastructure, the owner of LNG assets on the US Gulf Coast and Mexico, has signed a preliminary supply accord with the Polish Oil and Gas Company for 3 million tonnes per annum of shipments from Louisiana and Texas.

A heads of agreement (HOA) was signed for a potential Polish deal with the cargoes delivered on a free-on-board bases from Sempra's Cameron LNG plant at Hackberry in Louisiana, which is being expanded.

"The agreement underscores our commitment to help provide greater energy security to Poland and our global partners through long-term LNG sales," said Dan Brouillette, President of Sempra Infrastructure, an affiliate of San Diego, California-based utility Sempra.

"Our relationship with PGNiG is core to this commitment, and we are excited to continue working closely with them to advance more reliable, secure and increasingly clean energy solutions," added Brouillette.

Iwona Waksmundzka-Olejniczak, President of Polish Oil and Gas, said the accord paved the way for negotiations of detailed terms.

"LNG is already one of the cornerstones of our diversified strategy to enhance Polish energy security, as well as to strengthen the commercial potential of the PGNiG Group," she added.

Sempra stated that the accord may result in the finalization of definitive 20-year LNG sale and purchase agreements (SPAs) for 2 MTPA from the Cameron LNG Phase 2 project expansion in Louisiana and 1 MTPA from the Port Arthur LNG project under development in Texas.

US LNG data shows France ahead of Mexico and India in cargoes

LNG News Editor

The US Department of Energy published its latest liquefied natural gas monthly export data with France leap-frogging Mexico and India into seventh place from 10th in the overall standings as double-digit cargo shipments were diverted to Europe after the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Carrier set to lift cargo at Texas Corpus Christi plant

Europe bound

France, Spain, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands led the monthly destinations and with the Elba Island plant in Texas registering the highest price at point of export.

The total number of US cargoes delivered worldwide since March 2016 now amounts to 3,098 shipments, or 10,767 billion cubic feet of natural gas.

A further 976 ISO containers have been shipped to nations in the Caribbean and Latin America from ports in Florida.

The month of March proved to be a record one for ISO deliveries from Florida to the Caribbean because of a surge in containers sent to Jamaica.

The average price at the export points of the six US export plants listed in the March data came to $8.81 per million British thermal units in March 2022 versus $9.79 per MMBtu in the previous month, according to the DoE March LNG report.

The Sabine Pass plant remained the volume leader in March 2022 with six Trains on stream and supplying 38 cargoes, followed by Cameron LNG 26, Freeport LNG 21, Corpus Christi 19, Cove Point seven and Elba Island three.

Shipments from the Elba Island plant in Georgia, majority-owned by US pipelines and terminals company Kinder Morgan, cost the most for March 2022.

Shipments from Elba Island, where Shell is the lone buyer under a 20-year contract, averaged $10.12 per MMBtu versus $10.40 per MMBtu in February 2022 and for the 12 months-to-date the Georgia plant's shipments fetched an average of $7.76 per MMBtu from the point of export.

Venture Global Venture signs up Malaysia's Petronas as customer

Venture Global LNG, owner of the newest US export plant at Calcasieu Pass in Louisiana and with three other projects in development, has signed up Malaysian energy company Petronas for a 20-year supply deal.

The Arlington, Virginia-based company said the Petronas LNG subsidiary signed the 20-year Sales and Purchase Agreement (SPA) to receive volumes of 1 million tonnes per annum of LNG from the Plaquemines project being developed on the banks of the Mississippi River south of New Orleans.

20-year

The company said that with this agreement, Venture Global had now announced 20-year sales for 16 MTPA of the 20 MPTA nameplate capacity at the Plaquemines project.

"Venture Global is proud to begin a new, long-term supply partnership with Petronas, a world renowned and experienced leader in global LNG engineering and operations," said Venture Global CEO Michael Sabel.

"This contract represents a significant expansion of our existing customer base in Asia and we particularly look forward to Petronas bringing our competitive, lower carbon energy into Southeast Asia, a region with rapidly growing gas demand," added Sabel.

The Malaysian company is also a substantial exporter of LNG in its own right from the Bintulu onshore plant in Sarawak and from several floating LNG facilities deployed over gas fields in Malaysian waters.

Petronas Vice President of LNG Marketing and Trading, Shamsairi Ibrahim, said the deal with the US company supported the growth and accessibility of natural gas.

In addition to producing and trading LNG cargoes, Petronas is also a growing participant alongside Singapore in the LNG bunkering business for LNG-powered shipping.

"With the growing demand for energy security, the addition of the new volumes certainly enhances the Petronas global supply portfolio," added Ibrahim.

Venture Global has signed supply deals since the start of the year with half-a-dozen counter-parties.


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NEWS BRIEFS

Sardinia FSRU plan

SNAM, the Italian natural gas grid operator and LNG import terminal stakeholder, has signed a contract with shipping and project company Golar LNG to charter the carrier "Golar Arctic" as a floating storage and regasification unit (FSRU) to be deployed in the port area of Portovesme on the Italian island of Sardinia. The Mediterranean island already has a small-scale onshore import facility owned by Avernir LNG. The Golar charter contract was valued at €269 million ($282.5M) and includes the vessel and the costs to Golar of converting the "Golar Arctic" into an FSRU with storage capacity for up to 140,000 cubic metres.

Norway gas forecast

The Norwegian Ministry of Petroleum and Energy has updated its estimate of projected European natural gas sales in 2022 to about 8 percent higher than last year and set to be bolstered by the restarting Hammerfest LNG export plant in Northern Norway and with the volumes helping to offset declining Russian gas sales. The Ministry said deliveries of natural gas from the Norwegian Continental Shelf are expected to be around 122 billion cubic metres by the end of 2022 compared with 113 Bcm in the previous year.

Korean yard orders

Korea Shipbuilding & Offshore Engineering (KSOE), the country's largest shipyard group, said it won $910 million of orders to build four LNG carriers. Two KSOE affiliates, Hyundai Heavy Industries and Hyundai Samho Heavy Industries, will construct two 174,000 cubic metres capacity vessels each and deliver them to an Asian buyer from the first half of 2025.

Algeria holds key meetings with its Mediterranean neighbours Turkey and Italy focused on LNG and energy

LNG News Editor

Algeria, the largest supplier of LNG and pipeline natural gas to the neighbouring countries of the Mediterranean Basin, said it would remain a reliable supplier of gas and oil as Algerian President Abdemadjid Tebboune made a state visit to Turkey and Minister of Energy and Mines Mohamed Arkab spoke at a Southern Europe energy conference at Sorrento in Italy.

Arkab said at the "Towards the South" conference on hydrocarbons in the Mediterranean, set up by the Italian government and attended by Italy's Prime Minister Mario Draghi and others, that Algeria would remain a key energy player in the region and planned more investments in oil and gas.

Energy Minister Mohamed Arkab at event in Sorrento

Economy stance

An Algerian Ministry statement said Arkab was joined in the talks by the chief executives of the national oil and gas company Sonatrach and the gas utility Sonelgaz.

"The role of the energy and mining sector will remain as an engine of economic development and cooperation in the hydrocarbons sector, which is vital for the region," said Arkab.

The Energy and Mines Ministry said that Arkab had noted that the sector was open to more investments from Europe and elsewhere and its new legal framework should act as an incentive for partnerships and joint ventures.

"Algeria's own considerable investments are part of an approach aimed at consolidating the role of Algeria as a reliable supplier that ensures a secure and continuous supply," Arkab's statement added.

"Minister Arkab stressed the need to strengthen energy links between the countries on both shores of the Mediterranean to meet the common challenges," said the statement.

Turkey LNG ties

The Algerian government also issued a statement marking President Tebboune's three-day state visit to Turkey at the invitation of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

It noted that relations between Algeria and Turkey led to trade amounting to almost $5 billion in 2021 with Algeria ranked as Turkey's second-largest trading partner on the African continent after Egypt.

"The economic partnership between Algeria and Turkey continues to evolve, distinguishing itself by the realization of joint projects in various sectors," it added.

The statement pointed out that more than 90 percent of Algerian exports to Turkey were made up of energy products such LNG, oil and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).

The meetings between Algeria, Italy and Turkey followed the announcement of a study by the Italian and Spanish natural gas operators for a Med pipeline of their own to create an West-East Med natural gas hub.

Algerian LNG exporter Sonatrach shipped 11.8 million tonnes of LNG cargoes last year from its two plants at Arzew and Skikda. These included 4.31MT to Turkey, 3.39MT to France, 1.55MT to Spain and almost 1MT to Italy.

Pipeline links

Spain and Italy also received substantial amounts to pipeline gas in direct South-North pipeline links across the Med from Algeria.

In the energy field, the two countries had renewed a contract for Algeria to be the principal supplier of LNG to Turkey through 2024.

In addition, Sonatrach is working with the Turkish Renaissance group to establish a petrochemical complex in the Turkish city of Ceyhan.

> "The economic partnership between Algeria and Turkey continues to evolve, distinguishing itself by the realization of joint projects in various sectors"
>
> *- Algerian government*

Albania-Bulgarian gas firms sign deal at event attended by Ex-US Secretary of State Pompeo

LNG News Editor

Two Balkan natural gas and utility companies, Albania's Albgaz and Bulgaria's Overgas, have signed an accord to cooperate on projects to diversify supplies in the region at an event attended by former US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

Pompeo attended as the Chairman of US company Linden Energy's Advisory Board. Linden has agreed to take a 50 percent stake in Overgas subject to regulatory approval.

The accord outlined the parameters of the planned Albanian-Bulgarian cooperation to secure natural gas from non-Russian sources via commercially viable projects driven by the private sector.

"We are excited to begin working with a fellow regional gas company such as Albgaz. The signing of this agreement is a first step in regional cooperation to diversify gas supply to the Balkans," said Svetoslav Ivanov, Executive Director of Overgas.

The agreement was signed in the Albanian capital Tirana and representatives of each company attended along with Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama.

From left: Overgas Board Member Ambassador Matthew Bryza, President of Linden Energy Stephen Payne, Chairman of Linden Energy Advisory Board Secretary Mike Pompeo, Executive Director of Overgas Svetoslav Ivanov, Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama, Albanian Energy Minister Belinda Balluku, CEO of Albgaz Arber Avrami and Parliament Majority Leader Taulant Balla

Linden Energy was represented by Stephen Payne, the company's President and company founder and by former Secretary of State Pompeo.

The US company in July 2021 signed an agreement to acquire 50 percent of Overgas, the independent Bulgarian gas trading company and Bulgaria's largest privately-owned gas firm.

Linden Energy is focusing on energy project development and was founded in 2013 by Payne.

LNG record

"Payne has a history in the international energy sector as he has negotiated over 27 million tonnes per annum of LNG sales, was instrumental in the development of several large LNG export projects in the US and several major international pipelines," said the statement on the signing event.

It noted that Linden has other projects under consideration in Eastern Europe and South Asia.

Linden Energy is additionally a 10 percent capacity holder in the Gas Interconnector Greece-Bulgaria (IGB) pipeline.

"As one of the only US companies involved in the Balkans gas trade, Linden Energy is excited to take this first step as part of Overgas in partnership with Albgaz," stated Payne.

Secretary Pompeo said that at a time of great uncertainty in the European energy market he was proud to be a part of a team that is addressing this issue head-on.

"The Balkan region is one of the most vulnerable in terms of the lack of energy diversity and the signing of this accord is a strong step in the right direction," Pompeo declared.

JERA to issue bonds to fund transition

JERA Co. Inc, the main Japanese LNG importer, has decided to issue its first energy transition bonds and spend part of the proceeds on decommissioning older thermal power stations.

JERA was offering two tranches of bonds. They are a 12 billion yen ($83million) 5-year bond with a 0.420 percent per annum coupon and a 8 billion yen $62M) 10-year bond with a 0.664 percent rate coupon.

Transition bonds are being encouraged by the Japanese Government and are used to fund projects that contribute to reducing greenhouse-gas emissions in accordance with a company's long-term strategy on enabling a future decarbonized society.

"Issuing these transition bonds enables JERA to diversify its sources of funding to accelerate the development of decarbonization technologies such as the use of ammonia and hydrogen," said JERA.

The bonds will also be used to cover expenditures related to decommissioning inefficient thermal power plants for replacement with more efficient plants.

JERA is a 50-50 joint venture between Tokyo Electric Power Co. Holdings and Nagoya-based Chubu Electric Power, is the second Japanese LNG importer to issue such bonds following the Tokyo Gas sale of transition bonds in February.

The company said the underwriters for the transition bonds were Mizuho Securities, Mitsubishi UFJ Morgan Stanley Securities, BofA Securities Japan and Nomura Securities.

Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp. was named as the administrator of the JERA bonds.

LNG terminal owner Indian Oil reports rise in profits and refining

LNG News Editor

Ennore terminal inside the Kamarajar Port near Chennai

Indian Oil Corp. (IOC), the country's main oil refiner and importer and the owner of the nation's only East Coast LNG import terminal at Ennore, posted a 16 percent increase in net profits even as margins were tight in the petrochemicals industry and losses were made on partly subsidized fuels.

Indian Oil's annual net profits came to 25,102 crore rupees ($3.23Bln) versus 21,638 crore rupees ($2.79Bln) in the previous year.

Record revenues

The company said it earned $11.25 on turning every barrel of crude oil into fuel during the year compared was a refining margin of $5.64 in the previous year.

Indian Oil net profit for the fourth quarter dropped to 6,645 crore rupees ($857.2 million) compared with 9,026 crore rupees ($1.16 billion) in the same three months of 2021 because of fuel price rise curbs.

Gross annual revenues jumped by 40 percent to 736,730 crore rupees ($95.03Bln), a revenue record for an Indian corporation, compared with 523,736 crore rupees ($67.56Bln) in the previous year.

"This year, Indian Oil has notched up the highest ever revenue from operations and as well as highest ever net profit," said Chairman Shrikant Madhav Vaidya.

Indian Oil and other state-controlled energy companies held petrol and diesel prices lower for a longer period in the first quarter of 2022 to offset the jump in oil prices.

Indian Oil said that the overall business was now back to normal following various disruptions.

"Our refining throughput was 67.665 million tonnes and the throughput of the corporation's countrywide pipelines network was 83.248MT during the year," added Chairman Vaidya.

India's only East Coast LNG terminal at Kamarajar Port, also known as Ennore, received its first cargo from Qatargas in March 2021. The terminal is located 40 kilometres (25 miles) north of the city of Chennai and is owned by Indian Oil LNG Private Limited, a subsidiary of Indian Oil.

EU averts Gazprom gas cut-offs with shrouded rouble accounts

Most of Gazprom's European Union pipeline natural gas customers are set to open new bank accounts with Gazprombank to meet Russian demands for the payment of volumes to be made in Russian roubles.

These include major buyers in France, Germany and Italy and which also contend that they are staying within the boundaries of Western sanctions imposed by the European Union and monitored by the European Commission over Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Statements from French utility Engie, Germany's Uniper, Italy's Eni and others show they are preparing to give in to the demands of President Vladimir Putin and pay in roubles to avoid totally undermining the Russian currency.

The European Commission sent the 27 EU member states a document on May 13 explaining what Russian pipeline natural gas importers can do without contravening the economic sanctions.

Analysts note that this move was unlikely to affect plans for establishing new LNG import capabilities in Germany and more LNG infrastucture in other nations. It just gives the EU more time to gradually lessen its dependence on Russian gas supplies.

The utilities were awaiting this clarification, because their next payment deadline for Gazprom occurs at the end of May.

EU utilities refusing to pay in roubles such as Poland and Bulgaria have already been cut off from the Gazprom gas delivery system.

"The new payment system put in place by a decree from Vladimir Putin is particularly complex in the current context, because it involves payment in roubles, which is incompatible with the sanctions of the European Union," explained a Commission statement.

This means that companies like Engie, Eni and Germany Uniper and RWE and the other importers will have to open two accounts in Russia with Gazprombank, one in euros or dollars, depending on the currency in which their contracts are denominated, the other in roubles.

Shell says Jason Klein who worked on US Elba Island project is the new CEO of LNG Canada

LNG News Editor

Klein has San Antonio and law school qualifications

LNG Canada, the Shell-led project in the province of British Columbia, has named Shell executive Jason Klein as the new Chief Executive of the project, now described as 60 percent complete and also moving onto gas-processing infrastructure development to join with the Coastal GasLink.

Shell said Klein joins LNG Canada from Shell Canada, where he served as Vice President of Canada Integrated Gas. Klein replaces outgoing CEO Peter Zebedee.

'Wealth of experience'

The company said Klein brought to the position "a wealth of experience and a deep understanding of LNG, its role in the global energy transition to lower carbon energy and the part LNG Canada will play" in that transition.

The UK-based major noted in the statement that the project at Kitimat in BC was the largest private investments in Canadian history and was a long-life asset with a 40-year export licence that will initially produce 14 million tonnes per annum of LNG for export.

"I'm excited to join the team, especially at this time with construction in Kitimat progressing steadily and safely towards completion and the organization preparing for decades of successful operations," explained Klein.

"LNG Canada and its joint venture participants are committed to setting the benchmark for economically, environmentally and socially responsible LNG development in Canada, creating a positive and lasting legacy with First Nations, the local community and all British Columbians based on our values of safety, collaboration, respect and transparency," he stated.

Klein began his career with Shell in 2016, following its global acquisition of BG Group where Jason held assignments in the Middle East, Europe, North America and Australia in roles spanning the legal function, upstream operations and LNG developments over a period of 13 years (starting in 2003).

"Following the BG takeover, Klein became Vice President US LNG within Shell's Integrated Gas business, responsible for leading its development of the Elba Island LNG project near Savannah, Georgia," added the Shell statement.

He has a Bachelor of Science in Finance from Trinity University in San Antonio in Texas and a Doctorate in Jurisprudence from the University of Texas School of Law.

"Jason takes over accountability for LNG Canada at a very important and active time," said Susannah Pierce, Shell Canada President and Country Chairperson.

"He has extensive background in natural gas and LNG and a commitment to ensuring LNG Canada's relationships with First Nations, communities and other stakeholders remain strong and resilient," added Pierce.

LNG Canada remains on track and there are currently around 5,000 Canadians employed at its Kitimat site.

A huge natural gas inlet module that will take volumes off the Coastal GasLink pipeline arrived on site in March and marked what the company said was the "next phase" of development. ■

US LNG equipment-maker Chart Industries acquires Swedish firm CSC Cryogenic to expand EU business

Chart Industries Inc., the US maker of LNG and industrial gases equipment whose most recent orders were for major US LNG export plants on the Gulf Coast, has completed the acquisition of a Swedish company CSC Cryogenic Service Center AB to increase fuel and service offerings in the European Union.

"CSC Cryogenic brings a strong service footprint in the Nordic Region with many overlapping customers to Chart, allowing us to broaden our service and repair presence geographically," said the Atlanta, Georgia-based company.

Chart said its strong original equipment installed base and forecast growth in the Nordic region would benefit from the localized support in Sweden after the takeover for around $4 million.

"Not only does this expand our geographic footprint, it broadens our repair and service capabilities for mobile equipment, in particular trailers, as well as ISO containers, stationary and transportable tanks, pumps, flowmeters and LNG fuelling stations," explained Chart.

Chart in its most recent earnings reported record fourth-quarter and annual orders and is poised to deliver for three major LNG export projects likely to proceed in 2022.

Chart reported fourth-quarter and full-year 2021 orders of $460.9M and $1.67 billion, which were both historical records contributing to record backlog of $1.19Bln at the end of December 2021.

Gulf projects

Its orders from the Gulf Coast LNG export projects include providing equipment for Venture Global's Plaquemines Phase 1 project for 10 million tonnes per annum of LNG at a Louisiana site on the Mississippi River south of New Orleans.

Cheniere Energy's Corpus Christi plant expansion in Texas has also booked Chart content for additional mid-scale production Trains.

Additionally Chart said the Tellurian Driftwood project in Louisiana is anticipated to include over $350M of Chart content.

On the acquisition of Sweden's CSC Cryogenic, Chart said the takeover would help build the company's installation and commissioning capabilities for LNG stations.

"The CSC acquisition opens a broader geographic market to our Repair, Service and Leasing segment and broadens our capabilities for repair and service to our existing customers," stated Jill Evanko, Chart's Chief Executive and President.

"We want to welcome our CSC team, with whom we have worked over many years," she added. ■