

US Freeport LNG updates on efforts for restart after blast

Incident happened between LNG storage tank area and the terminal loading dock
LNG News Editor

Freeport LNG, the operating company of the liquefaction plant at Quintana Island in Texas, issued a long-awaited update to the June 8 incident at its Quintana Island liquefaction in Texas and said most of the plant was expected to be closed for three months.

"The incident occurred in pipe racks that support the transfer of LNG from the facility's LNG storage tank area to the terminal's dock facilities located on the intracoastal (north) side of Freeport LNG's dock basin," stated Freeport on its preliminary findings.

Worst avoided

"None of the liquefaction Trains, LNG storage tanks, dock facilities, or LNG process areas were impacted," said Freeport by way of full clarification.

"In coordination with local, state and federal officials, Freeport LNG's investigation into the cause of the incident, and what steps are necessary to safely resume liquefaction operations, is underway," declared the Houston, Texas-based company.

Freeport added that preliminary observations had suggested that the incident resulted from the "overpressure and rupture of a segment of an LNG transfer line". This led to the rapid flashing of LNG and the release and ignition of the natural gas vapor cloud.

"Additional investigation is underway to determine the underlying precipitating events that enabled the overpressure conditions in the LNG piping," said Freeport.



Smoke billows from Freeport plant after the June 8 explosion

"At this time, completion of all necessary repairs and a return to full plant operations is not expected until late 2022," stated the company.

"Given the relatively contained area of the facility physically impacted by the incident, a resumption of partial operations is targeted to be achieved in approximately 90 days, once the safety and security of doing so can be assured, and all regulatory clearances are obtained," it explained.

Despite the explosion no injuries were reported and the US Coast guard immediately enforced a 2-mile security zone east and west of the facility on the Intracoastal Waterway closing the channel for marine traffic.

Freeport LNG was founded by billionaire Michael Smith who is Chairman and Chief Executive and he is currently overseeing plans for an expansion from 15 million tonnes per annum to 20 MTPA with a fourth liquefaction Train.

The plant is the joint second-largest liquefaction facility in the US, from seven currently operating, along with Cameron LNG and Corpus Christi LNG, and is surpassed only by the six-Train plant at Sabine Pass in Louisiana,

owned by Cheniere Energy.

Freeport LNG's main customers include Japan's largest importer JERA Co. Inc., Japanese utilities Kansai Electric, and Osaka Gas, South Korean company SK E&S and BP of the UK as well as German utility Uniper.

During the first quarter of 2022, the Freeport plant exported 55 cargoes mainly to import terminals in Europe and North Asia, according to data from the US Department of Energy.

The average price of cargoes from the export point at Freeport LNG during the first quarter of 2022 was between \$7.87 per million British thermal units in January through to \$9.60 per MMBtu at the end of the quarter.

In a preliminary report on the fire, Freeport emphasised that at no time did the incident pose a threat to the surrounding community.

"In accordance with Freeport LNG's safety design parameters, the LNG vapor cloud dispersion and ignition thereof were at all times contained within the fence line of the liquefaction facility, lasting approximately 10 seconds," it explained.

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TotalEnergies is first major selected as a partner in Qatar North Field East LNG expansion project

LNG News Editor

French major TotalEnergies is the first oil and gas major to be selected as a partner and shareholder in the Qatar North Field East liquefied natural gas expansion project in the Arabian Gulf.

TotalEnergies said it was awarded a 25 percent interest in a new joint venture, alongside national company QatarEnergy, which will hold 75 percent.

Stakes

The TotalEnergies-QatarEnergy venture will own a 25 percent stake in the overall 33 million tonnes per annum in the NFE project. This is equivalent to one 8 million tonnes per annum liquefaction Train.

The NFE project using feed gas from Gulf waters was launched by QatarEnergy in mid-2019 and is currently under construction.

It is intended to increase Qatar's total LNG export capacity from 77 MTPA to around 110 MTPA by 2027 with the building of four 8 MTPA Trains.

A second phase of Qatar's LNG expansion is already on the draw-



TotalEnergies CEO Pouyanné and Qatar's Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi at the signing ceremony in Doha

ing board and will further increase LNG production capacity from 110 MTPA to 126 MTPA.

The 33 MTPA Qatari first-phase expansion is just 5 MPTA short of the combined output of 38 MTPA of the two largest Asian LNG-producing nations of Malaysia and Indonesia.

The upstream part of the NFE project will develop the southeast area of the North Field field and will comprise eight platforms, 80 wells and gas pipelines to the on-shore liquefaction plant.

Other partners for the three other additional 8 MTPA Trains are expected to include companies such as US major ExxonMobil Corp and Shell in joint ventures with Qatar and a final Train split in ownership

between Italy's Eni, US major ConocoPhillips and QatarEnergy.

"Qatar has huge natural gas resources that it intends to develop further to increase the production of the least expensive, the most environmentally respectful and the best located LNG," said Patrick Pouyanné, the TotalEnergies Chairman and Chief Executive.

"TotalEnergies was present at the beginning of its LNG industry in Qatar some 30 years ago through its interest in Qatargas 1, and then Qatargas 2 in 2005," explained the French CEO.

"We are very proud that Qatar has again chosen TotalEnergies, this time as the first partner for its new major phase of LNG ex-

pansion," added Pouyanné.

"This new partnership will indeed enable us to reinforce our global LNG portfolio and, together with Qatar, it will support our ability to contribute to Europe energy security," the CEO declared.

Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi, the President and CEO of QatarEnergy, praised the successful candidature of TotalEnergies for the "iconic" North Field East project that will not only ensure the optimal utilization of Qatar's natural resources but will also provide the world with the cleaner and more reliable energy it needs.

Strategic relationship

"We look forward to working closely with TotalEnergies, who are a long-term strategic partner that we have always trusted to support the efficient and safe delivery of our projects," explained Al-Kaabi.

"I would like to thank all the team members in QatarEnergy and TotalEnergies for the excellent collaboration and for all their hard work that has led to this important moment," he added.

Pakistan looks to Qatar for positive LNG supply deal to address power cuts and reserves shortages

Pakistan said it was seeking a third long-term liquefied natural gas supply contract with Qatar possibly involving deferred payments as the Asian nation adjusts to higher global gas prices and record spot cargo values.

Qatar's Minister of State for Energy Affairs, Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi who is also Chief Executive of QatarEnergy, met two visiting Pakistani minister last week in Doha.

They were Pakistan's Defence Minister and the Special Envoy of the Prime Minister, Khawaja Muhammad Asif, and Minister of State for Petroleum Musadik Masood Malik.

A statement from the Petroleum

Ministry's office said the discussions in Qatar had covered the enhancement of cooperation in the field of energy between Qatar and Pakistan.

Existing agreements

Petroleum Minister Malik said the Pakistani government and Qatar were exploring different "innovative" pricing and supply strategies.

"Deferred payment would be enormously beneficial for Pakistan in the way of cash flows, but that is not the only discussion that we are having," explained Malik in a statement back in Pakistan.

Pakistan already has two long-term supply deals with Qatar. The

first was signed in 2016 for five cargoes a month, and the second in 2021, under which Pakistan currently gets three monthly shipments.

However, Pakistan's main cities are suffering power outages as energy procurement is more intermittent because of higher natural gas prices to supply the expanded gas-fired power infrastructure.

Pakistan was looking to secure a new five-year or 10-year LNG supply deal for three monthly cargoes, as well as an additional cargo under an existing deal.

Pakistan imported 8.19 million tonnes of LNG last year, an increase

of 10.5 percent on the previous year. Despite its single-digit volumes, Pakistan is still the sixth-largest LNG importer with plenty of scope for expanding its current two floating facilities at Port Qasim, located to the east of Karachi.

It is behind China, Japan, South Korea, India and Taiwan in the importing ranking and ahead of Thailand.

The biggest supplier last year was Qatar with 5.24MT of deliveries and with other suppliers such as the US, Egypt, Angola and the United Arab Emirates supplying volumes of around 500,000 tonnes each.

LNG firm Woodside pushes ahead on robotics

Woodside Energy, the Australian LNG plant operator and oil and gas company with offshore assets in Senegal and others in Canada and Trinidad after merging with BHP Petroleum, said a joint industry venture in Australia pushes frontier of robotics for offshore inspection.

Woodside said it collaborated with industry to create a state-of-the-art offshore caisson-cleaning and inspection tool (CCAIT system) that allows safe and cost-effective remote inspection of critical equipment on its offshore platforms.

The one-of-a-kind system was designed, developed and deployed in less than 12 months via a collaboration led by Woodside Energy and incorporating expertise from energy and engineering firms Nexxis, Monadelphous, Woma and Fugro who have offices in Perth in Western Australia.

The CCAIT system incorporates a human-sized robot, designed to inspect the inside of caissons and vertical carbon steel pipes of up to 70 metres long and up to 1.2 metres wide.

These structures are used on offshore platforms to house critical equipment such as fire-water and seawater lift pumps.

In response to possible Covid-19 supply chain risks, a local solution was sought, inspiring the local industry collaboration.

Woodside said the CCAIT system was remotely controlled from a safe location on an offshore platform by skilled technicians. The tool is lowered inside the caisson via a tether and winch arrangement.

UK's Centrica strikes winter gas accord for more Norway volumes

LNG News Editor

Equinor, the Norwegian major and the UK's Centrica, owner of the British Gas utility, have signed a deal for the delivery of more Norwegian pipeline natural gas over the next three winters and the accord will slightly lessen the need for more LNG deliveries to UK terminals.

"The supply agreement will provide further energy security for the UK over the coming three winters," said a statement.

Volume boost

The new supply agreement adds around 1 billion cubic metres per annum to Equinor's existing bilateral contract with Centrica and brings the total volume under the contract above 10 Bcm per year.

In addition to importing Norwegian gas by pipeline, Centrica also receives LNG cargoes from several sources at the Isle of Grain LNG import terminal located southeast of London.

The Equinor-Centrica deal was signed as the National Balancing



Centrica CEO Chris O'Shea with UK PM Boris Johnson

Point wholesale market price rebounded on June 16 to a seasonal high of the equivalent of \$31.15 per million British thermal units on supply concerns.

The statement added that with the UK currently importing around a third of its gas requirements from Norway, the announcement underlines the strategic importance of the Norwegian relationship to UK energy security.

"In a period with a challenging geopolitical and macroeconomic environment with strong demand for natural gas, we at Equinor are doing what we can to export as

much gas as possible to the market," says Equinor's senior vice president Gas & Power, Helge Haugane.

"Equinor is proud to be a long-term, reliable energy partner with both Centrica and the UK, and I am very happy that through this agreement we are able to contribute to the UK securing further energy supply for the coming winters," stated Haugane.

Chris O'Shea, Centrica's Chief Executive, said the agreement was good news for the country and for British Gas customers.

Alaska Governor Dunleavy completes trade mission to Japan's LNG players

Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy has just concluded a trade mission to Japan where he met executives of leading energy companies and utilities as well as government ministries about the Japanese companies procuring long-term Alaskan LNG supplies.

The meetings came at a time when Japan is looking in the medium term and long-term for more oil and gas amid sanctions against Russia for the Ukraine conflict.

"Alaska and Japan have a trade partnership going back over fifty years to the first LNG export from Nikiski to Japan," said Governor Dunleavy at the end of the trip.

"The natural gas of the Cook Inlet literally turned the lights on

in cities across Japan and powered the economic engine that lifted that nation's post-war society into a critically powerful western ally," explained the Governor.

"There appears to be, due to the shift across the world away from older fuel sources, and the simultaneous need for supplies that are not risked due to political instability, a role that Alaska natural gas could play," stated Dunleavy.

Dunleavy was accompanied by members of the Alaska Gasline Development Corp. (AGDC), the state company running the LNG project, and they met major Japanese global players in LNG.

It was the Governor's second foreign trip during his administra-

tion; and the first was also to Japan in 2019, marking the 50th anniversary of the first LNG shipment from the first US LNG export plant at Nikiski to Tokyo.

Dunleavy and the Alaska delegation held meeting with representatives of the Japan Energy Resource Agency, the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI), the Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corp.

They additionally met with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation along with Tokyo Gas and TOYO Engineering, trading house Mitsubishi Corp., engineers Chiyoda Corp., well as oil and gas major INPEX and shipping company Mitsui Osk Lines.



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NEWS BRIEFS

China-Gazprom accord

Russian natural gas company Gazprom said it signed a technical agreement with China National Petroleum Corp. on the Far East route for a new gas pipeline carrying Chinese supplies. Gazprom added that Huang Yongzhang, Vice President of CNPC's PetroChina unit listed in Hong Kong and Vitaly Markelov, Deputy Chairman of Gazprom, signed the technical agreement on the China-Russian Far East Gas Supply Project during a virtual meeting. "The document contains the main technical parameters for the cross-border section of the gas pipeline, including the underwater crossing of the Ussuri border river, as well as the physical and chemical parameters of the gas intended for supply," said Gazprom.

Tokyo Gas study

Tokyo Gas, the leading Japanese utility, city-gas company and LNG importer, is continuing with a feasibility study for a gas-fired thermal power plant using regasified LNG in Sodegaura City in Chiba Prefecture. The plant would be constructed at an unused industrial site owned by Idemitsu Kosan, Japan's petroleum refining company. The study had originally been with another utility, Kyushu Electric Power, but Kyushu has since pulled out.

Saipem's Brazil award

Saipem of Italy said it was awarded a limited notice to proceed (LNT) by BW Offshore for the early-stage engineering services for the supply of a Floating Production Storage and Offloading (FPSO) unit. The FPSO will then be provided to Shell and its partners for the development of the Gato do Mato natural gas and oil field located about 200 kilometres offshore Brazil in the prolific Santos Basin in water depths of around 2,000 metres.

Tanzania moves step closer to becoming LNG exporter with Shell and Equinor accord on East African liquefaction plan

LNG News Editor

The East African nation of Tanzania said it signed a framework agreement with Norwegian energy major Equinor and UK-based Shell to intensify studies on a new LNG export project.

Tanzanian Energy Minister January Makamba said the signing of the preliminary accord would help pave the way towards a final investment decision by 2025 for Tanzania to become an LNG exporter from a plant in the south of the country and to transform the economy.

Historical

"We have never reached this stage of natural gas development in the history of our country," said Makamba at a signing ceremony in the capital Dodoma.

"This project will significantly change our economy," stated the minister.

"Tanzania's geographical positioning makes it easy to transport the natural gas to other countries, which are looking for new sources of energy," Makamba explained.

Tanzania's President Samia Suluhu Hassan, also present, welcomed the preliminary agreement.

"We have reached a good stage of discussions about the LNG pro-

“

Tanzania's geographical positioning makes it easy to transport the natural gas to other countries

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- January Makamba, Tanzanian Energy Minister

ject, but much work is still waiting for us to talk and make it competitive," she said.

Jared Kuehl, a Shell vice president and Country Chairman for Tanzania, said his company was pleased to move forward on the venture.

"We believe Tanzania has advantages because it is strategically located and has the opportunity to deliver a competitive and investable project," added Kuehl.

Equinor, which had in 2021 booked a \$982 million write-down on the project having decided it would not be sufficiently profitably, said in a statement it was too early to say whether it would reverse that write-down as a result of the latest accord.

Equinor and Shell, along with US major ExxonMobil and Pavilion Energy of Singapore, had previously discussed building the LNG export plant in the southern Lindi region.

Equinor has the operatorship of Tanzania's Block 2, in which Exxon-

Mobil also holds a stake and which is estimated to hold more than 20 trillion cubic feet of feed gas.

Joint approach

Equinor aims to work on the LNG project with Shell, which operates Block 1 and Block 4, with 16 Tcf in estimated recoverable gas.

Tanzania already uses some of its natural gas discoveries for power generation and to run manufacturing plants. It also plans to build a fertiliser plant.

The government has put the country's total estimated recoverable gas at 57.54 Tcf.

Equinor country manager for Tanzania, Unni Fjaer, said the deal had been a long time in the making.

"We had many delays but through the resolve of the government, we kept engaging and discussing and we believe Tanzanian gas presents a huge opportunity," she declared.



Tanzania's President Samia Hassan (centre) oversees LNG deal signing event

Axpo handles 'massive increase' in collateral payments for hedging Switzerland's electricity

LNG News Editor

Axpo, the international energy trader and Switzerland's largest producer of renewables, reported a doubling of fiscal first-half income to more than 6 billion Swiss francs (\$6.6Bn) against what it said was a backdrop of unprecedented turmoil in energy markets.

The company said income before interest and tax came to 1.09Bn Swiss francs (\$1.1Bn) versus 505 million francs in the prior-year first half.

Axpo, which is based in Baden in Aargau, one of the 26 cantons forming the Swiss Confederation, report net debts of 2.22Bn Swiss francs compared with 1.22Bn francs in the previous first half.

"The first half was dominated by two price shocks: one at the end of 2021, another following the outbreak of war in Ukraine," said Axpo.

"These caused prices for gas, coal and electricity to fluctuate wildly, at times reaching levels up to six times higher than they were at 12 months previously," said the firm.

Challenging

"In this highly challenging environment, Axpo profited from its broad diversification across geographical markets and fields of business. The Trading & Sales segment once again achieved excel-



CEO Christoph Brand (third left) with Axpo board of director

lent results in marketing power plant capacity (asset-backed trading) and business with international customers (origination)," explained Axpo.

The company said a number of factors detracted from the good operating performance of the Generation and Distribution segment and the Centralschweizerische Kraftwerke (CKW), the largest energy provider in Central Switzerland with around 200,000 customers.

It was also affected by the longer-than-planned revision of the Leibstadt nuclear plant, which is important for energy supply security and the restricted availability of various French nuclear plants and the below-average power production from domestic hydro-electric plants due to dry weather.

Christoph Brand, Chief Executive of Axpo said the fiscal first half

was exceptional in many respects.

"The international diversification of our business as well as the outstanding skills and hard work of our staff enabled us to achieve good results against this highly challenging backdrop," explained Brand.

Hedging

"We were also able to absorb the massive increase in collateral payments for hedging Swiss electricity production through active liquidity management. Axpo is well positioned to overcome this unprecedented situation. We will also continue to make a significant contribution to decarbonisation and to energy supply security," stated the CEO.

Axpo has to sell its production from Swiss power plants, around 25 terawatts hours per annum, via wholesale channels, and it hedges

prices up to three years in advance to guard against falling prices as seen in 2015-2016 and to smooth out fluctuations for the benefit of Swiss energy suppliers and their customers.

This hedging caused the collateral Axpo is required to provide under stock exchange regulation to increase by 2.2Bn Swiss francs in the reporting period, increasing net debt and leading to a cash outflow (operating cash flow) of 1.75Bn Swiss francs.

"Active liquidity management and good access to the capital market allowed Axpo to absorb this additional expense," said Axpo.

"When prices fall or these hedges are liquidated on delivery of the electricity, all of the money tied up flows back to the company," it added.

Axpo issued a positive outlook and said its strategy had proven its worth and the firm was showing itself to be robust in the highly challenging environment.

"Axpo will continue to play a key role in decarbonisation and energy supply security as it expands its capacity in renewables and leads the way in marketing production capacity and trading all forms of energy," it said.

"In view of the war in Ukraine and high volatility in energy prices, the short-term outlook is fraught with uncertainty," Axpo added.

Axpo has brought on new solar facilities as it expands its renewables base and others are currently being developed in Spain, Italy and Poland with a total output of 4 gigawatts.

Axpo has also realised further projects in France, where it is among the leaders in the development and construction of solar plants with Urbasolar.

In wind power, Axpo's subsidiary Volkswind completed more new facilities in France during the reporting period.

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Eagle LNG in deal with cruise line

Eagle LNG Partners, said it would partner with the Royal Caribbean Group to provide liquefied natural gas bunkering for the cruise company's LNG-powered ships.

The customers will include the "Icon of the Seas", the first LNG-fuelled ship in the Icon Class for the company's Royal Caribbean International brand.

Eagle said it would use multiple purpose-built LNG vessels equipped for marine bunkering and gas delivery throughout the Caribbean region.

The LNG bunker supply vessels are optimized for cruise ship bunkering in terms of distance keeping, hose handling, product conditioning and mooring solutions.

"Eagle LNG is honored to have been chosen by Royal Caribbean Group as its LNG bunker partner," said Matthew Fisher, Vice President of Corporate Development and Sustainability for Eagle.

"By introducing these purpose-built bunkering ships for the Caribbean, we are setting that vision into motion while also creating opportunities for island nations to access low-cost, secure, US produced natural gas for power generation," added Fisher.

The LNG supply will be sourced from Eagle LNG's liquefaction facilities in Jacksonville in Florida.

"Eagle LNG's facilities are designed for loading bunker vessels and LNG carriers for the Caribbean while maintaining economies of scale using modular liquefaction technology," said the company.

"The facilities will be capable of blending in renewable feedstocks to help customers achieve their carbon reduction goals," it added.

TGE Marine Gas Engineering wins LNG bunker barge work

LNG News Editor

TGE Marine Gas Engineering GmbH, the leading provider of liquefied gas systems for cargo-handling and tanks, has won a contract for a 12,000 cubic metres capacity LNG bunkering barge.

The cargo was awarded by Fincantieri Bay Shipbuilding located in Surgeon Bay in the US state of Wisconsin.

Crowley-Shell

The work will be carried out on behalf of US-based shipping company Crowley Maritime, based in Jacksonville, Florida, and after delivery the vessel will operate under a long-term charter with Shell North America LNG.

Scope of the contract includes the design and supply of the cargo-handling system, including two 6,000 cubic metres capacity bilobe Type-C tanks designed to transport LNG.

"The cargo-handling system will enable the barge to load LNG from a supply terminal and transfer the LNG to the clients' vessels using a ship-to-ship transfer sys-



Graphic of the 12,000 cubic metres capacity bunker barge

tem," explained TGE. "During transit the cargo can be kept in its liquid state at ambient pressure through the use of a chiller unit," the company added.

The company says its design expertise is based on extensive engineering experience within the small-scale LNG carrier, bunker vessel, FSRU and fuel-gas system markets.

The 12,000 cubic metres LNG bunkering barge will be the largest of its kind built in the United States when delivered and

is expected to start operations along the US East Coast in 2024.

"The maritime transport sector is quickly moving towards decarbonisation and compared to traditional fuels LNG offers a great opportunity to reduce carbon emissions," stated TGE.

"The use of LNG as a fuel within the maritime industry has seen significant growth over the last years with around 30 percent of the worldwide order book currently based on LNG as fuel," added TGE.

Avenir LNG starts supplying Baltic ferry company TT-Line

Avenir LNG has helped organize the first LNG fuel delivery in the German Baltic Sea Port of Lübeck, supplying the TT-Line ferry company's new RoPax vessel "Nils Holgersson", which carries vehicles, passengers and cargo.

Avenir said that to execute the operation it teamed up with Liquind 24/7 GmbH, a leading German LNG infrastructure provider, and Landwärme GmbH, one of Europe's leading biomethane traders.

The fuel delivered to the "Nils Holgersson" in the bunkering operation was 10 percent BioLNG, made from waste.

Avenir is a joint venture owned by London-based Stolt-Nielsen and shipping company partners Höegh

LNG and Golar LNG Ltd and is listed on the Oslo over-the-counter market.

The company said the first bunkering of the supply agreement was the start of a long-term cooperation between Avenir LNG and TT-Line for the supply of LNG and BioLNG to two new RoPax ferries that will transport passengers and cargo between Baltic Sea ports in Sweden, Germany, and Poland.

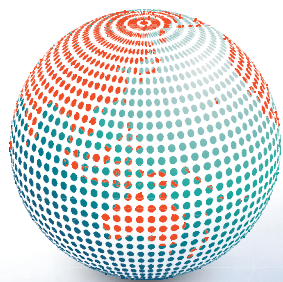
Avenir noted that population in the in the port of the region would be immediately benefitting from the environmental advantages of these vessels being powered with LNG with much reduced emissions.

"We are excited about this successful first delivery of LNG to

TT-Line in Lübeck," said Peter Mackey, Chief Executive of Avenir LNG.

"The fact that 10 percent of the delivery was Bio-LNG underlines the commitment of all parties involved to reducing emissions of shipping even further through the development of a suitable small-scale LNG infrastructure," Mackey explained.

"Avenir is committed to the deployment of bunker vessels and the construction of new terminals, to improve the availability of environmentally friendly fuels for our customers across the marine, industry and logistics segments," stated the Avenir CEO.



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Equinor will buy LNG from expanded Corpus Christi plant in Texas to boost European gas

LNG News Editor

Equinor, the Norwegian oil and gas major and main pipeline natural gas supplier to Europe amid diminishing Russian deliveries from Gazprom, will be an LNG trader with additional volumes supplied by the largest US LNG exporter Cheniere Energy.

Under a planned 15-year agreement Equinor will purchase around 1.75 million tonnes of LNG per annum from Houston-based Cheniere from 2026.

Volumes

"This new Sales and Purchase Agreement (SPA) will add new volumes to Equinor's already significant gas portfolio of pipeline gas and LNG," stated Equinor.

The Norwegian company also disclosed that the expansion at Corpus Christi to add 10 MTPA to the current nameplate capacity of 13.5 MTPA will likely be followed by another boost in output.

"With global energy demand growing and increased focus on energy security, the LNG market is



Texas deal pleases Equinor vice president Helge Haugane

expected to grow significantly. US LNG can supply the European markets as well as cover demand in other markets," explained Equinor.

The Stavanger, Norway-based oil and gas major has recently shipped the first cargo from the repaired Hammerfest in Northern Norway to re-established seaborne LNG supply link Europe.

It was the first cargo to leave the Hammerfest liquefaction and export plant since the September 2020 fire.

Once the Hammerfest is ramped up to full production of

4.8 MTPA, a ship will leave the facility on Melkøya island every five or six days and over the year will deliver 5 percent of Norway's natural gas exports while the other 95 percent is delivered by pipelines.

Norway's role as a key supplier to Europe has taken on more importance because of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and Western sanctions against Russian oil and gas.

The Hammerfest project gave Europe its first large-scale LNG supply when it came on stream in 2007, though the facility was orig-

inally planned and built to supply the US before the shale-gas boom.

"I am very pleased that we have entered into a long-term agreement with Cheniere, the largest US producer of LNG," said Helge Haugane, Equinor's senior vice president Gas & Power.

"Based on our production in Norway, Equinor is the second-largest supplier of pipeline gas to Europe. The new LNG agreement is a major building block in Equinor's ambition to further strengthen our global gas position by adding more LNG to the portfolio," Haugane explained.

Crucial role

"LNG will play a crucial role in providing energy security. By increasing our position in this segment, we will be even better positioned as a long-term reliable supplier of energy," he stated.

Under the SPA, Equinor has agreed to purchase the volumes from Cheniere Marketing on a free-on-board basis whereby the Norwegians send their own ships.

Uniper signs agreement US natural gas supplies from LNG feed-gas player Southwestern Energy

Southwestern Energy Co. the second-largest US natural gas producer, has signed a deal with Uniper to supply the German utility with Responsibly Sourced Gas (RSG) supplies.

Southwestern holds 768,000 net acres in the Appalachian Basin of the northeast US and 257,000 net acres in the Haynesville Shale.

The Springs, Texas-based company finished certifying all its Appalachian production earlier in 2022 and expects its Haynesville assets in Louisiana to be certified by the end of 2022.

"Southwestern Energy is strategically positioned to supply the world's growing energy demands with its responsibly sourced gas,"

said Chief Executive Bill Way.

"We believe natural gas is foundational to a low carbon future, and that US natural gas in particular plays a vital role in supporting global energy supply and security," added the CEO.

As part of the agreement, for which no financial details were released, Southwestern will supply Uniper with RSG for its US mid-stream gas portfolio that includes domestic distribution to downstream customers.

The US company is able to transport the natural gas to US Gulf Coast facilities for liquefaction and export to global LNG markets, though at a premium.

Southwestern noted that the

agreement represented the first RSG transaction for Uniper in the United States and its second in North America.

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"We believe natural gas is foundational to a low carbon future, and that US natural gas in particular plays a vital role in supporting global energy supply and security," it added.

"This agreement further demonstrates SWN's differentiated position to reliably deliver responsibly sourced gas both here at home and abroad," explained CEO

Way. "We're excited to announce this agreement with Uniper and pleased to provide a critically-needed and low carbon energy solution," he stated.

Marc Merrill, President and CEO for Uniper in North America, said that transparency in energy production practices is a growing market interest, and agreements like this one are key to deploying responsibly sourced solutions for customers in the US and abroad.

"Southwestern Energy's reputation as a first-mover in RSG makes it a valued supplier in assisting our customers achieve their critical supply objectives in a responsible manner," added Merrill.



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