LNG Unlimited

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ADNOC Gas in UAE plans to invest $13Bln and to double LNG output

AGM approved the board's proposal to distribute an annual dividend of $3.25Bln

LNG News Editor

ADNOC Gas held first AGM since landmark IPO in 2023

ADNOC Gas, the energy company in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates, plans to invest $13 billion in domestic and international opportunities in the next five years and aims to more than double its LNG production capacity by 2028.

The company said that significant investments, including $4.9Bln in contracts awarded in 2023, will drive future growth.

The statements came at the first ADNOC Gas annual general meeting since its landmark initial public offering in March 2023.

The AGM approved the board's proposal to distribute a robust full-year 2023 dividend of $3.25Bln.

Dividends

An inaugural interim cash dividend of $1.625Bln was paid in December 2023, with a further $1.625Bln is scheduled for distribution to shareholders in the second quarter of 2024.

"ADNOC Gas recorded robust financial and operational results in 2023 and has delivered on its dividend promise to shareholders and is progressing several significant projects that will accelerate its future growth," said group Chairman Sultan Ahmed Al-Jaber.

The company saw its share price surge 30 percent from its listing date in March 2023 to year-end, driving its market capitalization to $65Bln and ranking it among the Top 20 oil and gas companies worldwide.

"Our international sales momentum grew in 2023 with the signing of LNG export agreements worth up to $12Bln, securing our returns in the coming years and capitalizing on the increasing global demand for LNG as a transition fuel," Al-Jaber added.

"In addition, we are looking to increase our LNG export volumes in a growing global market," stated the Chairman.

"Our aim is to acquire the new Ruwais LNG plant and more than double our LNG production capacity by 2028," he declared.

Al-Jaber reported that between 2024 and 2029, ADNOC Gas planned to invest in domestic and international growth as gross income surges.

Strong results

ADNOC Gas had delivered strong financial results in 2023, reporting revenues of $22.7Bln and net income of $4.7Bln, exceeding market expectations and setting the foundation for further growth in 2024 and beyond.

The company intends to progressively increase the dividend it pays its shareholders by 5 percent year-on-year over the next four years, underscoring the strength and visibility of ADNOC Gas's future cash flows.

Ahmed Alebri, Chief Executive of ADNOC Gas, said the strong financial performance in 2023 underpinned the confidence the company has to expand and explore new revenue streams.

"We are planning to more than double our LNG production capacity by strategically acquiring the new Ruwais LNG plant," explained Alebri.

"We aim to expand internationally by acquiring new positions in the gas value chain, targeting opportunities in Europe, India, China and South-East Asia if they add value to our business," stated the CEO.

ADNOC has announced its intention to take a final investment decision on the Ruwais LNG project in 2024 and which ADNOC Gas would then acquire.

In 2024, the company stated that it would focus on processing and delivering increased volumes of gas to its customers and enhancing its product mix to meet the growing global demand for lower-carbon solutions.

ADNOC Gas said it was well positioned to benefit from ADNOC's planned expansion of oil production capacity to five million barrels per day by 2027. ■

UNLIMITED AGENDA

QatarEnergy signs 19 more LNG ship charter deals with Asian nations like China and Japan

LNG News Editor

QatarEnergy the leading global LNG producer and with three growth projects being developed, has signed 19 more charter contracts with Asian owners from countries like China and Malaysia under Qatar's LNG fleet expansion programme.

Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi, Qatar's Minister of State for Energy Affairs and President and Chief Executive of QatarEnergy, announced the deals on March 31 in Doha.

In a ceremony at QatarEnergy's Doha headquarters the company signed contracts to charter six vessels from China Energy Merchant Shipping (CMES) and six carriers from Chinese company Shandong Marine Energy.

Chinese group

Three more vessels would be chartered from Malaysian shipping company, the MISC Group, and four ships from Japan's Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha (K-Line) and South Korea's Hyundai Glovis.

CMES is a specialized Chinese company engaged in the shipment of energy, including oil and LNG, and operating under China COSCO Shipping Corp. Holdings.

Participants in charter signings with shipping companies

The Chinese owner already has about 12 vessels lifting cargoes from Qatar and delivering to LNG import terminals such as those at Guangdong, Fujian and Shenzhen in the south of China and to Shanghai.

China's LNG ownership group additionally has about dozen ICE-class carriers serving projects such as the Russian Yamal project in northern Siberia.

QatarEnergy had previously contracted for 77 ships to be built at South Korean and Chinese shipyards in the first phases of its LNG ship acquisition programme.

"The signings form a significant milestone in QatarEnergy's LNG fleet expansion program, as it marks the conclusion of the conventional sizes vessels portion of program, bringing the total number of ships for which we have signed time-charter party agreements (TCPs) to 104 vessels, a massive undertaking that is the largest shipbuilding and leasing program ever in the history of the industry," explained Al-Kaabi.

The latest TCPs from Asia bring to 44 the number ships signed up by Qatar in the month of March alone.

QatarEnergy had earlier, on March 25, 2024, signed 25 charters with domestic company Qatar Gas Transport Co. (Nakilat) for conventional-size LNG vessels as part of a shipowner tender.

Nakilat deals

Under the Nakilat agreements, 17 of the 25 LNG vessels are being constructed at the Hyundai Heavy Industries (HHI) shipyard in South Korea, while the remaining eight are being constructed at Hanwha Ocean, formerly Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering, also in South Korea.

Each of these 25 vessels will have a capacity of 174,000 cubic metres and will be chartered out by Nakilat to affiliates of QatarEnergy pursuant to the 15-year TCP agreements.

Gasunie explains LNG-backed energy security plan now that Dutch Groningen field is shut

Dutch utility Gasunie, whose network and assets include over 17,000 kilometres of pipelines in the Netherlands and northern Germany as well as stakes in Dutch and German LNG import facilities, has explained its energy security plan now that the Groningen gas field in the Netherlands is no longer active and imports of Russian gas have almost ceased.

Gasunie noted that global demand for LNG also currently exceeds supply, which means security of supply is no longer a given.

The utility said that Gasunie Transport Services (GTS) was being assigned the statutory duty to give annual advice on the security of natural gas supply and has drawn up a plan that was being presented to the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy.

"The GTS vision emphasises the importance of proactive measures to guarantee the security of natural gas supply in the short and long term, while factoring in the challenges presented by the current market and changing climatic conditions," Gasunie explained.

"The vision still features an important role and responsibility for market parties, but does propose several extra market rules allowing for intervention if deemed necessary to guarantee security of supply," the report added.

Gasunie has LNG import facility stakes in the Dutch Gate terminal in Rotterdam and the Eemshaven import hub in Groningen.

The utility is additionally involved in the German natural gas market and in developing the onshore LNG terminal in Brunsbüttel on the Elbe.

Guarantees

"A continuous sufficient gas supply and well-filled gas storage facilities for the winter periods are needed to guarantee security of supply," said the report.

"The Netherlands currently depends on imports for 75 percent of its gas consumption," it noted.

"Given the closure of the Groningen field and declining domestic production, this dependence will become even greater," Gasunie stated.

"The Netherlands would therefore benefit from a well-functioning European internal gas market as would other EU member states," the utility added.

There are also now likely to be additional statutory measures in the 27-nation EU to fill gas storage facilities.

As of mid-2022, supply from Russia to northwest Europe ceased almost entirely.

This is being compensated for by maximum pipeline gas imports from Norway and maximum LNG supply through the Gate terminal and the EemsEnergy Terminal throughout the year.

"This supply covers basic demand, but can barely make an additional contribution in winter," said Gasunie.

Seatrium of Singapore strengthens LNG market position with projects

LNG News Editor

Seatrium of Singapore, the shipyard engineering company, aims to continue with its liquefied natural gas project successes with a large book of projects to work on through 2025.

Seatrium has secured a series of major contracts with an aggregate value of S$350 million (US$259M), to be completed by the end 2025, reinforcing its reputation as a market leader in vessel repairs, upgrades and conversions.

African FLNG

Seatrium, formerly called Sembcorp Marine Ltd and renamed as Seatrium following its merger with Keppel Offshore & Marine, is moving forward in the sector after big LNG delivery highlights in 2023.

These included the successful delivery in November 2023 of the Greek floating storage and regasification unit, the "FSRU Alexandroupolis", now deployed offshore northeast Greece as part of a Balkans LNG supply hub.

Seatrium also in November last year handed over the LNG production unit for the BP-led FLNG project offshore Senegal and Mauritania in West Africa and also involving Dallas-based US company Kosmos Energy.

Yards have major contracts from LNG to cruise ships

The group said that the diverse range of complex contracts secured by the Seatrium Repairs and Upgrades unit and currently being worked on or being prepared for include upgrades and conversions of FSRUs, life-extension and remediation works for floating production systems as well as repairs to conventional LNG carriers.

"We thank our customers for their confidence in Seatrium's capabilities and for entrusting us with these important projects," said Alvin Gan, Executive Vice President of Seatrium Repairs and Upgrades.

"With our expertise and extensive track records, we are committed to deliver safe, timely and reliable projects to our customers," he stated.

The backlog of FSRU conversions involves three LNG Carriers (LNGC) being converted to FSRUs for Turkish company Karpowership, with an option for a fourth project. ■

Thailand chooses firm for Sabah field

Thailand's state-run energy firm, Public Company Exploration and Production (PTTEP), has awarded US engineers McDermott a sizeable contract for transportation, installation and commissioning of a project offshore the state of Sabah in east Malaysia.

McDermott's contract was awarded by PTTEP Sabah Oil Limited for the Kikeh subsea natural gas lift project, located 75 miles (120 kilometres) northwest of the island of Labuan in Malaysian waters.

Under the scope of the contract, McDermott will remove the existing flexible gas lift riser and perform the installation and commissioning of a new dynamic riser section and flowline comprised of two thermoplastic composite pipe jumpers.

The Houston, Texas-based company said that this would enable gas delivery to a subsea production system tied back to the Kikeh floating production, storage and offloading (FPSO) vessel.

"McDermott is uniquely positioned to deliver this project, having performed the installation of subsea infrastructure in the Kikeh field between 2011 and 2012, and again in 2014, in the nearby Siakap North-Petai field," explained Mahesh Swaminathan, McDermott's Senior Vice President for Subsea and Floating Facilities.

"We pioneered reel-lay installation for pipe-in-pipe production and water injection flowlines in the region, underscoring our commitment to engineering innovation," said Swaminathan.

"Returning to the Kikeh field not only reaffirms our expertise, but also presents another opportunity to deliver exceptional results through our unmatched experience in offshore transportation, subsea installations and commissioning," he added. ■

Empyrean reports progress on Indonesian gas for Singapore

Empyrean Energy, the UK-listed oil and gas company with interests in Indonesia, China and the United States, reported that an accord containing key terms has been signed for the Indonesian Mako gas field to supply Singapore by pipeline and domestic gas to the Indonesians.

Conrad Asia Energy is the operator with 76.5 percent of the Mako field that is part of the Duyung Production Sharing Contract (PSC) offshore Indonesia and in which Empyrean has an 8.5 percent shareholding.

Markets

Conrad has now entered into binding terms for the sale and purchase of the domestic portion of the Mako gas field with PT Perusahaan Gas Negara (PGN), the gas subsidiary of Indonesian state energy company Pertamina.

"Under these binding terms, Conrad and PGN will agree in good faith and sign a fully termed Gas Sales Agreement for the domestic portion of the gas produced from the Mako field in Indonesia's West Natuna Sea," said Empyrean.

This GSA will be subject to the construction of the pipeline connecting the West Natuna Transportation System (WNTS) with the domestic gas market in Batam.

It forms part of the Domestic Market Obligation (DMO) as set out in the Mako's revised Plan of Development.

The sales volumes under this GSA will represent around 29.5 percent of Mako sales gas volumes until the PSC expires in January 2037.

The remainder of the Mako sales gas volumes will be sold to Singapore for which a term sheet was signed in the third quarter of 2023 and Conrad has moved towards finalising a Singapore GSA.

Empyrean said that these latest agreed terms are an important step towards the Mako development final investment decision planned by mid-2024.

"These Domestic Market Obligations on key terms are an important step towards FID for the Mako gas field development," explained Empyrean Chief Executive Tom Kelly. ■

NEWS BRIEFS

Japan LNG funding

Japan Bank for International Co-operation (JBIC) confirmed the signing of a loan agreement amounting to up to US$390 million (JBIC portion) with Singapore- headquartered Trafigura Pte Ltd. The loan is co-financed with Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp., bringing the total co-financing amount to around US$560M. "Trafigura is a major supplier of resources including liquefied natural gas as a market leader in the global commodities industry. The loan is intended to provide the funds required for a Japanese utility company to import LNG from Trafigura," said JBIC. "Amid the growing global demand for LNG and the increasing uncertainty over resource prices, the loan, which supports the Japanese utility company in procuring term LNG through Trafigura, will contribute toward securing a stable supply of LNG, which is an important energy resource for Japan," added JBIC.

JERA-Petronas study

JERA Co. Inc, the largest LNG buyer in Japan, has signed an agreement with Malaysian energy company to evaluate the feasibility of separating and capturing carbon-dioxide emitted by JERA in Japan and then transporting the CO2 to Malaysia for storage. "Malaysia has an abundance of potentially suitable sites for underground CO2 storage," said JERA. "Carbon-capture and storage is a crucial solution for industries that have difficulty reducing CO2 emissions. Governments worldwide actively support CCS projects and numerous initiatives are underway including in the Asia-Pacific region," explained JERA. Both companies plan to "jointly examine the feasibility across the entire CCS value chain" of the CCS project from cross-border shipping to storage of CO2 in depleted Malaysia gas fields. ■

Belgian gas shipping company Exmar boosts revenues with floating LNG projects in Africa and the Netherlands

LNG News Editor

Antwerp-based firm enabled Congo to debut as exporter

Exmar, the Belgian shipping company with a fleet of more than 40 gas carriers and floating terminal expertise and assets, improved its revenues with an LNG production project in West Africa and a floating import terminal in the Netherlands in a year when the company was transformed by a takeover.

Exmar, which chartered a regasification barge to the Netherlands and sold a floating LNG production vessel to Italy's Eni for deployment offshore the Republic of Congo, was taken over by Saverex NV, the holding company of the family of Nicolas Saverys in what was essentially a Belgian form of a management buy-out.

In its shipping division, Exmar retains an extensive fleet including three Very Large Gas Carriers, 17 mid-sized liquefied petroleum gas carriers, two newbuilds and 10 pressurised carriers.

Earnings picture

Exmar, based in the Belgian port of Antwerp, said revenues soared to $374.7 million in 2023 compared with $80.5M in the previous year.

Operating income increased to $492.2M versus $476.8M in 2022. The result for the period was $70.0M compared with $320.3M in 2022.

Earnings for the year were boosted by revenues from the engineering, procurement, and conversion contracts for the Marine XII project in the Congo and the floating LNG production project operated by Eni.

There was also a full period of employment of the Eemshaven floating LNG terminal in the Netherlands.

The FSRU "Eemshaven LNG" is on charter to a unit of Dutch utility Gasunie called the EemsEnergy Terminal BV.

"The Marine XII project came online one year after the FID by our customer Eni, and features a liquefaction facility, 'Tango FLNG, with a capacity of about 1 billion cubic metres per year," explained Exmar.

"Moored alongside, is Exmar's "Excalibur" floating storage unit (FSU), using an innovative configuration developed in-house called 'split mooring', implemented for the first time in a floating LNG terminal," the company added.

Future FLNG plans

In parallel Exmar said it was working on various new floating LNG liquefaction projects and floating LNG regasification projects.

Exmar said that adjusted gross earnings for the year came to $75.7M versus $7.4M in 2022 and adjusted EBITDA rose to $80.4M from $26M in 2022.

Shipping revenues increased to $143.8M from $141.4M in the previous year.

Exmar said that the Very Large Gas Carrier "Flanders Pioneer" and "Flanders Innovation" continued to perform under their current contracts with the Norwegian European major Equinor.

"The VLGC 'BW Tokyo' performed well in the BW VLGC pool in 2023 and benefited from high revenues achieved in the segment," the company added.

"The Midsize Gas Carriers (MGC) market experienced another strong year, with an increased LPG activity and freight," Exmar stated.

Ammonia role

"Half of Exmar's midsize fleet was dedicated to ammonia in 2023 and this is expected to continue in 2024. At the beginning of 2024, 92 percent of Exmar's Midsize fleet is covered on contracts," it said.

Exmar stated that proceeds of the sale in 2023, of 100 percent of the shares of Export LNG Ltd, the ownership company of the "Tango FLNG", had been distributed as dividend, resulting in a normalized net financial debt position.

The Board of Directors, represented by Chairman Nicolas Saverys, Chief Executive Carl-Antoine Saverys and the Executive Committee, represented by Francis Mottrie, Chief Operating officer of FMO BV and Hadrien Bown, Chief Financial Officer representing HAX BV, said it had dividend plans.

The Board said it would propose to the general meeting of shareholders on 21 May 2024 to distribute a gross dividend of (gross) of €0.40 per share from the profit carried forward and the distribution of (gross) €0.38 per share from the available share premium. ■

US ratings agency Moody's forecasts rise in China LNG imports as Europe stays volatile

LNG News Editor

Moody's Investors Service, the US ratings agency, said in a report into liquefied natural gas that Chinese demand in 2024 will be similar to last year and while European gas markets remained resilient the region's reliance on LNG could increase price volatility.

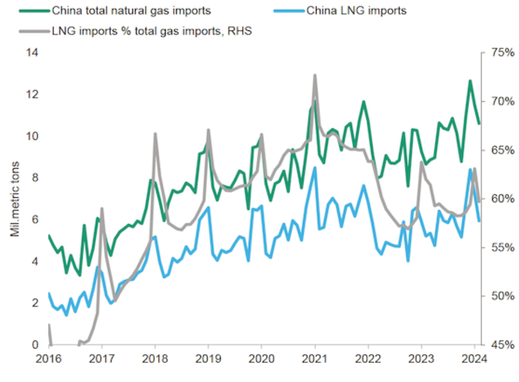
China's LNG imports in 2023 increased by around 12 billion cubic metres, or about 8.88 million tonnes, to 97 Bcm from 2022, close to the Moody's revised estimate of a 14 Bcm increase, but still below the levels reached in 2021.

"We expect China's LNG demand to increase by 12 Bcm in 2024, in line with International Energy Agency forecasts to around the levels seen in 2021," the Moody's report said.

Looking at European LNG and gas market trends, Moody's noted that gas storage was at a record high towards the end of the 2023-2024 heating season, thanks to increased availability of LNG and reduced demand from the electricity and industrial sectors, as well as a mild winter.

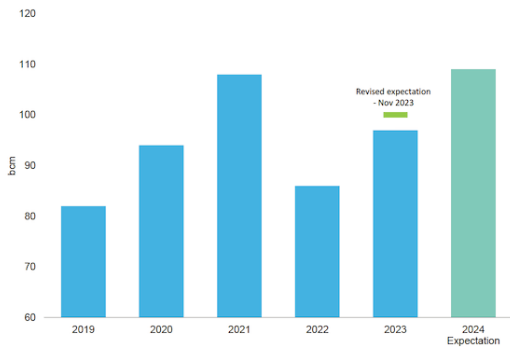
"By the end of March, storage was at 59 percent of capacity, which is slightly above our expectations in the previous report," Moody's explained.

Despite a surge in total gas imports, China's reliance on LNG is still lower than before Russia's invasion of Ukraine in early 2022



Source: Haver Analytics and Moody's Ratings

China's LNG demand is expected to rise by around 10% in 2024, similar to the increase in 2023



We expect China's LNG demand to rebound by a similar amount of 2023, in line with IEA projections.

Charts show trends on European and Asian markets

Refill season

"As a result, Europe is well positioned to refill gas storage ahead of next winter in our base case scenario, which includes adjusting to normal winter conditions with colder temperatures and potentially higher demand," the report stated.

Moody's also outlined what it called its "stressed scenario" whereby all Russian LNG deliveries ceased and a cold winter set in.

"In our stressed scenario, where imports of Russian gas cease, including both pipeline gas and LNG, and there is a colder than average winter, the supply gap would widen to around 9 percent of EU gas demand, leading to higher prices and the need for significantly increased imports," the report said.

The European natural gas market has proved more resilient than what was expected two years ago when the Nord Stream gas pipelines began to fail.

The loss of Russian pipeline gas has been replaced by increased LNG imports backed, for example, by German government funding of floating LNG import facilities at four ports.

LNG accounted for around 42 percent of total EU gas imports in 2023, a record level and 7 percentage points higher than in 2022.

Norwegian gas

This was followed by Norwegian pipeline gas, which accounted for 29 percent of Europe's gas imports, and Algerian pipeline gas, which contributed 10 percent in 2023.

Geopolitical tensions have so far had a limited impact on European LNG prices and supply.

"However, in our adverse downside scenario of the Middle East conflict, where a further escalation between Israel and Hamas leads to a disruption of LNG production and export facilities in the region, there could be a rise in natural gas prices," said Moody's.

"European natural gas demand is expected to pick up marginally in 2024 as the economy recovers but any rebound will be limited by subdued GDP growth this year and an increase in renewable energy," it concluded.

> "Europe is well positioned to refill gas storage ahead of next winter in our base case scenario, which includes adjusting to normal winter conditions with colder temperatures and potentially higher demand"
>
> *- Moody's*

NEWS BRIEFS

Fluxys regulated result

Fluxys Belgium, the operator of the Zeebrugge LNG import terminal and natural gas assets, reported a drop in 2023 revenues in its regulated business to €592.7 million ($640.2M) from €912.5M in the previous year. "This change is in line with the tariff methodology," said Fluxys. Net profits declined in the year to December 2023 to €77.4M from €83.7M. "Throughout the year all our teams did everything they could to support security of supply in North-West Europe," said Fluxys. "The geopolitical situation resulting from the war in Ukraine has profoundly changed the dynamics of the gas markets and the direction of flows in Europe. In addition to supplying Belgium, suppliers continued to carry large quantities of natural gas to the Netherlands and Germany via the Belgian grid," the company added. "We reinforced the Zeebrugge-Brussels corridor with an additional pipeline to carry more natural gas inland from Zeebrugge while maintaining high flows to neighbouring countries," Fluxys stated.

Gazprom resumes gas flow to China

Russian natural gas company Gazprom said flows to China on the "Power of Siberia" pipeline have resumed after scheduled maintenance, offsetting the need for higher LNG imports during the Northern Hemisphere summer season.

"Scheduled maintenance works on the 'Power of Siberia' gas pipeline have been completed. Transportation of gas was resumed on April 1 as planned," Gazprom stated.

The St Petersburg-based company said that maintenance work was carried out for 10 days at the end of March 2024.

"Maintenance of equipment and systems of the 'Power of Siberia' gas pipeline is carried out twice a year, in spring and autumn, in accordance with the gas purchase and sale agreement between Gazprom and the Chinese company China National Petroleum Corp (CNPC)," Gazprom explained.

Gazprom said gas shipments to China via the "Power of Siberia" pipeline had increased since mid-November 2023 and as of the beginning of 2024 there were new increases in contract volumes to 30 billion cubic metres per annum from 22 Bcm.

Gazprom added that by the end of 2023 it had boosted gas supplies to China via the pipeline 1.5-fold to 22.7 Bcm which is 700 million cubic metres (mcm) higher than last year's contractual commitments.

The Russian gas pipeline from Siberia runs for 3,000 kilometres (1,865 miles) into northeast China.

Additional pipelines inside China carry the gas for a further 2,110km through eight Chinese provinces in the north to Shanghai in eastern China. ■

Chart Industries opens 'jumbo' tanks factory in Alabama for cryogenic use

LNG News Editor

Chart Industries, the US LNG equipment-maker and industrial gases market player, has held a formal opening ceremony for a "jumbo" cryogenic tank manufacturing facility in Theodore in the southern US state of Alabama.

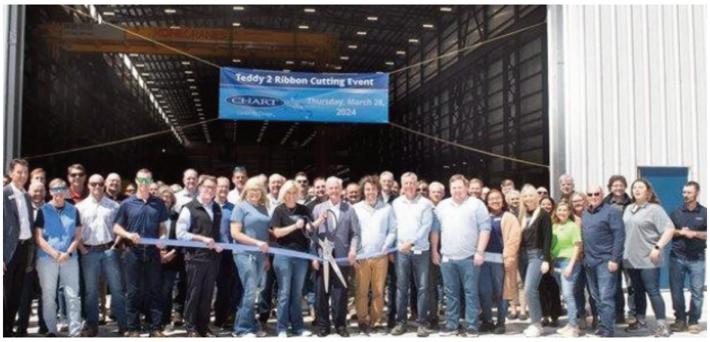
This plant is the second built by Chart in Theodore and will manufacture the world's largest shop-built cryogenic tanks with capacity of up to 1,700 cubic metres.

"The tanks manufactured at this site will be used for propellant storage for the aerospace industry, hydrogen and LNG storage for marine and power, gas by rail and for many other applications in the sciences and decarbonization industries," explained Chart.

Jobs creation

The facility, known by Chart as "Teddy 2", has direct access to waterways and railways, providing customers with lower freight costs and faster transportation to site.

Chart added that this expansion also contributes significantly to local job creation and economic development efforts for the state of Alabama.



Alabama Governor was main guest at 'Teddy 2' opening

"We're thrilled to officially expand our presence in Theodore, Alabama with our ability to offer the world's only shop-built cryogenic tanks of this scale," said Jill Evanko, Chart's Chief Executive and President.

"This expansion further supports our customers through increased capacity and scale as well as lower freight costs and shorter lead times," Evanko added.

"We look forward to continuing to hire from the strong, skilled workforce in Alabama," stated the CEO.

Alabama Governor Kay Ivey was a guest at the ribbon-cutting ceremony and praised Chart for its contribution to the further economic development in Mobile County.

"Chart Industries recognizes both the strength of local engineering expertise as well as our advanced manufacturing and workforce capabilities," Ivey said.

"We're looking forward to Chart's expansion in south Alabama, creating new jobs for our region," the Governor declared. ■

HAM Group fills LNG network on highway from Barcelona to Cadiz

HAM Group of Spain, the developer of a growing European LNG filling station network, has inaugurated two more facilities in the Tarragona province of eastern Spain to take its network total to 142 facilities in Europe.

The latest two filling stations in Spain have been installed and started up on the A7 Mediterranean Motorway.

The A7 is an important axis for transport fleets as it connects La Jonquera, located north of Barcelona in the northeast, to Cadiz in the far southwest of Spain.

One of the stations is named the Baix Ebre LNG-CNG EDUX Service Area on the A7 at kilometre-317 in the direction north to Tarragona.

The new gas station offers its customers a dispenser with two hoses for trucks and heavy vehicles to refuel with LNG and CNG from dispensers with a hose for cars, light vehicles and trucks.

This new LNG-CNG refuelling station is managed remotely but with a 24/7 technical assistance telephone number for the speedy resolution of any incidents during refuelling.

Opening hours are 24/365 and refuelling is possible with any debit, credit and HAM Card for professional use.

The second HAM filling station is called the EDUX Hospitalet de l'Infant LNG-CNG refuelling station in Tarragona, also on the A7, at kilometre-283 direction Castellón.

This new EDUX Hospitalet de l'Infant LNG-CNG facility has a dispenser with two hoses for refuelling lorries and heavy vehicles and a CNG dispenser with one hose for refuelling cars, light vehicles and lorries.

"With the opening of these new NGV refuelling stations, HAM Group reinforces its commitment to the decarbonisation of transport and sustainable and environmentally friendly mobility," said the company.

"The new refuelling points give the group an extensive network of biomethane refuelling stations located on the main Spanish and European transport routes," it added. ■


CHART
NEXUS OF CLEAN™
"Chart's vision is to be the global leader in the design, engineering and manufacturing of cryogenic process technologies and equipment for the Nexus of Clean™ — clean power, clean water, clean food and clean industrials, regardless of molecule."
JILL EVANKO / CEO / CHART INDUSTRIES
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Australia forecasts tightly balanced LNG market and outlines prospects for rivals Qatar and the US

LNG News Editor

The Australian Government said the nation's LNG export revenues are expected to decline from A$72 billion (US$47Bln) in the current fiscal year to just under A$45Bln by 2028-2029 as volumes flow in a tight market, though prices will ease in real terms towards the end of the decade.

The Quarterly Energy and Resources Report from Australia's Office of the Chief Economist said that export volumes from Australia's 10 liquefaction and export plants are expected to hold close to the 80 million tonnes per annual export level, though may decrease in the outlook period through 2029 in the latter years as feed-gas reserves start to deplete.

"While natural gas prices eased from the records of 2022 they have subsequently risen slightly as conflicts in Ukraine (in particular) and Gaza continue," said the report.

"New supply from the US and Qatar should help to bring prices down in the second half of the outlook period," it added.

"Prices are forecast to ease from around US$16 per million British thermal units in 2024 to just under US$11 per MMBtu by 2029 (in real terms)," stated the report.

Australian LNG plants are currently frozen at 10 facilities

Balance

Australia forecasts that global gas markets would remain tightly balanced, with the European pivot towards seaborne imports holding US production at near full capacity.

It added that risks remained concentrated in the early part of the outlook period, as markets seek to manage events in Ukraine and the Middle East.

"Attacks on shipping in the Red Sea have not yet affected LNG shipments significantly, with companies redirecting shipments to alternate routes," said the report.

"However, the potential for further spill-over from the conflict in Gaza remains. Ukraine has recently launched strikes on oil refineries and transportation infrastructure inside Russia, and could strike gas infrastructure in the same way," the Australians warned.

"Russia continues to export over 40 million tonnes of LNG per year despite the curtailment of some trade flows with Europe, and disruptions to these exports could materially affect trade flows and prices," the report added.

Supply growth

The report asserts that LNG supply growth is likely to be modest in 2024, but more rapid in subsequent years.

Prices are expected to remain relatively high in early 2024, affected by potential supply disruptions and the possibility of higher weather-related demand.

The prices are then seen decreasing from 2025 as new supply from the US, in particular, and Qatar should reduce these "price pressures" and result in a steady lowering of prices.

"Qatari LNG exports are expected to be largely steady at just under 80MT annually until 2025," said the report.

"Exports are then expected to rise in the second half of the outlook period, reaching 125MT in 2028 and 2029," it added.

Australia pointed to risks to US export growth after the Administration announced a temporary pause in approving new LNG export capacity, which may limit the growth of cargo volumes in the future.

Australian newest LNG player Beach Energy to cut workforce and overhaul team to reduce costs

Beach Energy Ltd, the Australian company involved in the Waitsia LNG export project in the onshore Perth Basin of Western Australia and in other natural gas ventures in South Australia and New Zealand, has embarked on a strategic review involving job losses and an executive overhaul.

Beach said the review was aimed at re-setting the base business for "efficiency" and "growth" in the future.

"The first stage of the will implemented by 8 April 2024," said the company.

"Several of the current executive team will be leaving Beach over the coming months, and we appreciate their efforts and support through this leadership transition," it added.

"To achieve efficiency and operational cost improvements, a targeted headcount reduction of 30 percent will be delivered across the business," stated Beach.

Perth Basin

Beach's most active projects are in the onshore Perth Basin from where one cargo has already been exported on a test basis.

The Basin extends about 1,300 kilometres from south of Perth to its northern tip offshore from the Carnarvon basin.

Beach's Perth Basin operations consist of the Waitsia project operated by Japan's Mitsui Exploration and Production company and the Beharra Springs gas project operated by Beach.

The Beharra Springs Gas processing facility handles gas from nearby wells and transports it through the Parmelia pipeline to domestic customers in Western Australia.

Beach is additionally working with its joint venture partner Mitsui to progress with the Waitsia Stage 2 project.

"Our new organisational structure will bring sharpened focus on our core assets as we strive to become a dominant supplier of gas into Australia's East Coast and West Coast markets," said Beach Chief Executive Brett Woods.

Lower costs

"It is imperative that Beach regains its status as a safe and efficient, low-cost operator by achieving structural reductions in operating costs and sustaining capital expenditure, including the announced reduction in headcount," explained the CEO.

"Decisions about headcount reductions are not made lightly as we are highly cognisant of the personal impact organisational change can have on individuals and their families," Woods stated.