LNG Unlimited

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# Commonwealth LNG receives first new US export approval

**Last Friday, US Secretary of Energy, Chris Wright awarded the first major LNG project export permit to non-free trade agreement (FTA) countries since the lifting of the Biden/Harris administration's freeze on approvals.**

The recipient was Kimmeridge Texas City's Commonwealth LNG, planned for Cameron Parish, Louisiana. Once completed, the facility will be able to export over 1.2 bill cu ft per day of LNG or 9.5 mill tonnes per annum.

"President Trump has outlined a bold agenda for unleashing American energy dominance, and restoring regular order on US LNG export permits is critical for meeting this commitment to the American people," Secretary Wright said. "Today marks one of many steps that DoE will be taking to assure our future as a reliable energy supplier to the world and resume regular order to our regulatory responsibilities over natural gas exports.

"Exporting American LNG strengthens the US economy and supports American jobs while bolstering energy security around the world, and I am proud to be working with President Trump to get American energy exports back on track."

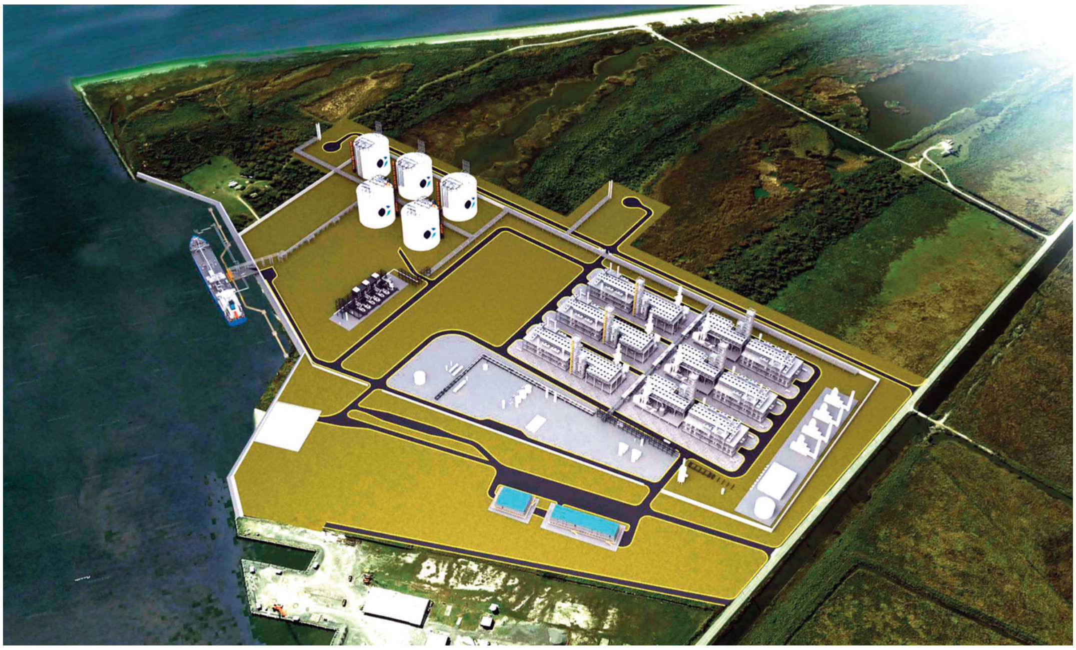
In the authorisation statement, the DoE said it found that LNG exports from Commonwealth LNG were likely to yield economic benefits to the US, diversify global LNG supplies, and improve energy security for US allies and trading partners during the export term period through 2050.

DoE is to issue a final order to Commonwealth LNG later this year, it said.

According to the US Energy Information Administration's (EIA) most recent Short-Term Energy Outlook, current US LNG exports are expected to reach record highs this year, averaging over 15 bill cu ft per day.

These export levels are expected to be matched by record highs in US natural gas production of almost 105 bill cu ft per day.

Trump has also reopened over 600 mill acres of US offshore waters for oil and gas development and formed an energy council, led by Interior Secretary, Doug Burgum, which is set to drive policy aimed at maximising domestic energy output. ■



**Commonwealth LNG is the first US project to be awarded an export license by the Trump administration**

## UNLIMITED AGENDA

# Colder temperatures/low European storage lead to Asian spot LNG price rise

Asian spot LNG prices rose to a more than one-year high last week.

This was on the back of forecasts of colder temperatures and the concerns over Europe's storage levels.

For example, the average LNG price for March delivery into northeast Asia was at $16.10 per MMBtu, the highest since November, 2023, industry sources estimated. April delivery's average price was estimated at $15.50 per MMBtu. Trading was due to shift to the April contract last Monday.

"The main market concern is the high rate of withdrawals from Europe's gas inventories... The region appears on track to import 11 mill tonnes of LNG in February," said Siamak Adibi, FGE director for gas and LNG supply analytics, to newswires.

"Europe will certainly need higher LNG imports this year to address higher gas consumption and lower gas inventories. If Asian demand strengthens, market tightness could have a greater impact on spot prices," he said.

Asian prices were also supported as the market needed to remain competitive and keep itself priced into some spot volumes, for a baseline level of LNG to flow into Asia, said Martin Senior, head of LNG pricing at Argus.

## Cold snaps

Both Japan and South Korea were forecasting cold snaps towards the end of this month, although this was due to be followed by seasonal average temperatures by the end of February, said Argus' Senior.

In Europe, gas prices eased from two-year highs on forecasts of warmer temperatures, ongoing US efforts to end the war in Ukraine and talks of less rigid gas storage targets.

However, market uncertainties remained, as Europe's inventories dropped to around 47%, with still some winter months to come, said Hans Van Cleef, chief energy economist at PZ-Energy.

"Risks of a further or even faster depletion of inventories will continue to build on the already negative sentiment in the markets," he said.

S&P Global Commodity Insights assessed its daily North West Europe LNG Marker price benchmark for cargoes delivered in March on an ex-ship (DES) basis at $15.137 per MMBtu on 13th February, a $0.55 per MMBtu discount to the March gas price at the Dutch TTF hub.

The US arbitrage to northeast Asia via the Cape of Good Hope for February narrowed for a third week in succession, but still signaled that US cargoes were incentivised to deliver to Europe over Asia, said Spark Commodities analyst, Qasim Afghan.

Atlantic freight rates rose slightly to $5,000 per day on Friday, marginally recovering from record lows seen in the last two weeks, Afghan added. Pacific rates remained steady at $10,000 per day. ■

# European LNG imports set to increase

A Swiss trader expects a material increase in European LNG supplies in the coming weeks.

According to Axpo's market outlook, the gas market was tight with European storage well down on 2024's level and the five year average.

Gas Infrastructure Europe data showed that storage levels were at 49% of capacity on 8th February.

The tighter set-up makes end winter storage level in the 30% range more likely, Axpo said, which will leave a big gap to fill to reach the mandated 90% needed by 1st November.

One way to address this challenge was by attracting additional LNG cargoes to Europe. Prices were already signaling this move and Axpo expected a material increase in LNG cargo arrivals in Europe during the coming weeks.

However, whether this will be sufficient to fill the storage gap remains to be seen, the report said.

Little wind and cooler weather this winter thus far, compared to 2022/23, plus the end of Russian gas deliveries via Ukraine, helped to drive the largest January EU storage withdrawal seen since 2021.

European gas prices surged to two years highs last week on the back of the storage concerns and cold weather.

Under the EU's gas storage regulation adopted in June, 2022, mandatory storage targets are set for member countries, including the interim filling levels that should be reached.

This year's 1st November target of 90% full will be the final one before the regulation expires at the end of 2025, unless the rules are extended or new arrangements are put in place.

Equinor's CEO, Anders Opedal has said that Europe would need more LNG to refill its stocks.

"If you want to go back to 90% storage levels, Europe needs to attract 230 more LNG cargoes than last year, which represents around a 20% increase, " he said, adding..." I think that demonstrates the competition for LNG that we will see between Europe and Asia over the summer."

## Storage filling

The market also remains concerned about storage filling this summer given an inverted summer-winter spread.

German gas market manager, Trading Hub Europe (THE) unveiled plans last month for a new gas storage product designed to encourage market participants to inject gas into storage sites, despite insufficient seasonal spreads.

The product concept's focus is to subsidise new injections and to provide incentives for storing gas, a THE spokesperson told S&P Global.

Axpo said that Germany and other countries were now working out how subsidy mechanisms may look to fill their out of the money (OTM) storage.

Overall, Europe's large storage requirements this summer and the uncertainty surrounding regulatory intervention were setting up a strong, if volatile, gas market over the coming months, the trader said. ■

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# Arctic LNG 2 gas being marketed to Indian buyers

Russian officials held meetings with Indian buyers last week to try to sell LNG from a sanctioned export facility.

Government officials and NOVATEK executives, involved in the Arctic LNG 2 export plant, spoke with potential Indian buyers during the India Energy Week (IEW) conference in New Delhi, according to a Bloomberg report.

However, the Indian buyers did not agree to purchase the LNG, sources said, adding that the meetings were held in private.

**Murmansk is the location of a large module construction site for Russian oil and gas projects**

Russian companies, including NOVATEK, held a group discussion with Indian companies last Wednesday, but Arctic LNG 2 wasn't raised in that specific meeting, Indian Oil Secretary. Pankaj Jain, told reporters on the IEW conference sidelines.

Talks with potential customers about Arctic LNG 2 were held at another meeting, sources confirmed.

Leonid Mikhelson, NOVATEK Chairman, was listed among the conference attendees. More than a dozen other company officials were also registered.

Arctic LNG 2 began exporting LNG last year relying on Russia's so called 'shadow fleet'. None of the shipments had arrived at an overseas port thus far, as buyers were reluctant to get caught up in the sanctions.

Talks in Delhi came after NOVATEK officials travelled to the US and Brussels during the past few months to try to soften the west's stance against Russian LNG, according to the High North News. ■

# Crown LNG signs MoU with Indian Gas Exchange

At last week's India Energy Week (IEW) Crown LNG, a wholly owned subsidiary of Crown LNG Holdings Limited, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Gas Exchange Limited (IGX), India's authorised natural gas trading platform.

This agreement was aimed at expanding and enhancing the natural gas ecosystem in Southern India.

The MoU was signed by Swapan Kataria, Crown LNG CEO, and Rajesh Kumar Mediratta, Managing Director & CEO of IGX at the event.

This initiative aims to create a more competitive, transparent, and efficient gas market place, making natural gas more accessible to industries and micro-enterprises.

The organisations said that this partnership will facilitate the development of independent gas consumers, promote LNG distribution in rural and industrial regions, and enhance infrastructure utilisation for long-term energy security.

Crown LNG and IGX will work together to boost LNG adoption in Southern India, with Crown LNG's forthcoming LNG regasification terminal at Kakinada Deepwater Port in Andhra Pradesh playing a pivotal role in meeting growing industrial and commercial gas demands.

IGX will leverage its trading platform and network to improve demand-side participation and facilitate competitive trade, ensuring wider accessibility to clean energy solutions.

At the signing ceremony, Kataria said: "With our LNG infrastructure and IGX's extensive market reach, we aim to ensure a steady supply of gas, encourage wider adoption, and drive India's clean energy transition. The Kakinada terminal will be a critical supply point, reducing transportation costs and enhancing regional energy security."

IGX's Mediratta added:"This collaboration with Crown LNG strengthens gas accessibility in Southern India. Through our trading platform, we will enable industries and micro-entrepreneurs to access natural gas efficiently, supporting India's transition to a competitive gas-based economy."

## Increased efficiency

This agreement also sets the stage for increased competition and efficiency in India's gas sector, driving optimal infrastructure utilisation and promoting affordable and accessible natural gas solutions, they added.

Both organisations will explore further areas of co-operation to accelerate India's 15% gas-based economy target by 2030, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's energy plan.

IGX will drive market awareness through workshops and industry engagement initiatives, encouraging wider participation in gas trading.

For its part, Crown LNG will collaborate closely with IGX on LNG cargo arrivals and sales, ensuring a stable and efficient supply chain.

Kataria told *LNG Journal* that the company is currently pursuing a 10 mill tonnes per annum US export facility, which it wants to feed its fully approved 7.2 mill tonnes Kakinada import facility, plus the planned 5 mill tonnes per annum import terminal at Haldia.

In addition, Crown is developing a 5 mill tonne import facility at Grangemouth, Scotland and a 10 mill tonnes per annum plant in Vietnam.

He said; "It creates a logical partnership, with Crown having the ability to get the product into India's pipeline network; and IGX distributing it with Crown." ■

# Formal agreement signed for Eastern Mediterranean gas hub

An agreement to firm up the establishment of a gas hub in the Eastern Mediterranean was signed in Cairo earlier this week.

This will capitalise on Egypt's existing hydrocarbon infrastructure and position Cyprus as a gas producer and exporter, the signatories said.

It outlined a comprehensive framework to enable the rapid development of the Cronos gas discovery offshore Cyprus and in particular the Block 6 resources.

Once produced, the gas will be transported to and processed at Egypt's Zohr facilities before being liquefied at the Damietta LNG plant for export to European markets.

The agreement was signed by Egypt's Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, Karim Badawi, Cyprus Minister of Energy, Commerce and Industry, George Papanastasiou, developers' Eni's CEO, Claudio Descalzi, and a TotalEnergies' representative.

**The FSRU 'Prometheus' will be stationed at Damietta**

The signing ceremony took place during the opening ceremony of EGYPES, Egypt's premier energy event.

This agreement was described as a concrete milestone to establish a gas hub in the Eastern Mediterranean capitalising on Egypt's existing hydrocarbon infrastructure and positioning Cyprus as a gas producer and exporter.

Eni's Descalzi, commented: "This agreement paves the way to bring Cyprus' gas to the market in a timely fashion, contributing to energy security and competitiveness of energy supply.

"This project leverages Egypt's existing infrastructure, including export facilities, which are a key enabler for developments in the region.

"Egypt and Cyprus reaffirm their roles in the emerging energy hub of the Eastern Mediterranean, which is set to play an increasing role in the global gas supply in the near future," he said.

Discovered in 2022 and subsequently appraised last year, Cronos is estimated at more than 3 trill cu ft of untapped gas.

In addition, Block 6 encompasses further potential resources currently under exploration and appraisal, including the Zeus discovery made in 2022.

Eni said that it had been present in Cyprus since 2013 and operates Block 6 by holding a 50% interest. The Italian energy giant also operates Block 8 and has participating interests in Blocks 7 and 11.

The company operates in Egypt through a wholly owned subsidiary, IEOC and also has a 50% share in the Damietta LNG plant.

It was thought that the FSRU 'Prometheus' would be utilised at Damietta to produce LNG from Cronos.

She was originally converted for a Cypriot LNG import project, which became mired in legal battles. ■

# High European LNG price to hit demand - Vitol

European LNG prices, which are currently trading at a premium to Asia, are reaching levels that will start hurting demand, the CEO of energy and commodities trading firm Vitol has warned.

"Europe is attracting much more LNG and the European price has overtaken the Asian price now ... Typically it's the other way," Vitol's Russell Hardy said at last week's India Energy Week (IEW) conference.

Higher European prices have drawn more LNG supplies to the region, with traders even diverting some cargoes that were on course for Asia, as countries seek to replace piped Russian gas after the Ukraine transit deal expired on 1st January and amid lower temperatures.

Due to this trend, Hardy said Europe will have enough gas to refill its gas inventories, but added that government intervention will be required to ensure adequate winter supplies of LNG.

"We've got a very unusual situation where the gas market is backward going into summer, so the price for summer is above the price for January next year. That's just counter-intuitive to a winter-based market," he said, adding that Europe's winter demand is normally higher than in summer.

"So you've got this imbalance, and the European Union is rightfully concerned about winter supply and keeping people warm is a major priority ... It's just a concern today that that won't happen without a degree of force being brought in to make it happen.

"That instruction is developing in the EU and is going to come probably with some incentives or subsidies or negatively-priced storage," he said.

Europe's gas stores are currently 48.48% full, compared with 67% at the same time last year, according to data from Gas Infrastructure Europe.

While global supply is "tight at the moment," Hardy said that he does not expect new policies in the US, the world's top producer, to change the global supply balance, which will see some 200 mill tonnes of new LNG supply coming onto the market between 2028 and 2031.

"I don't think the new US policies are going to dramatically change that balance out to 2030, but they may have an impact in the next decade," he said. ■

**Vitol CEO Russell Hardy. Photo credit- Gastech.**

# India's natural gas demand to grow by up to 60%

India's gas market is at an inflection point, as infrastructure expansion and policy support drive unprecedented growth in consumption, according to an International Energy Agency (IEA) report, unveiled at last week's India's Energy Week (IEW).

The country's natural gas demand is forecast to increase by nearly 60% by 2030, which would be a significant shift in the country's energy landscape, putting the country's projected gas demand on a par with some of the world's largest consumers.

The report, 'India Gas Market Report: Outlook to 2030', claimed that the country's gas consumption will reach 103 bill cu m annually by the end of the decade.

Following over 10 years of slow growth and periodic declines, India's natural gas demand increased by more than 10% in both 2023 and 2024, indicating the inflection point.

While total gas consumption in 2023 was only marginally higher than 2011 levels, three key factors were converging to drive substantial growth - rapid infrastructure expansion, recovering domestic production, and an expected easing of global gas market conditions.

"India's gas market is entering a new phase of growth, supported by significant infrastructure development and clear policy direction," said IEA Director of Energy Markets and Security, Keisuke Sadamori. "The prospect of higher gas demand in India coincides with an expected wave of new global LNG supply.

"However, it will require careful planning and market co-ordination to ensure supply security and to help gas to compete in a price-sensitive market," he said.

> **"India's gas market is entering a new phase of growth, supported by significant infrastructure development and clear policy direction"**
>
> *- Keisuke Sadamori, Director of Energy Markets and Security, IEA*

## Infrastructure growth

Infrastructure development is playing a crucial role in enabling the market growth. Since 2019, India has almost quadrupled its number of compressed natural gas (CNG) stations and more than doubled the number of residential gas connections, while extending its transmission pipeline network by 40%.

By 2030, the number of CNG stations and residential connections is expected to nearly double again, with the gas transmission grid expanding by an additional 50%.

The city gas distribution (CGD) sector is expected to lead India's consumption growth between now and 2030, supported by rapid CNG infrastructure expansion and competitive pricing against liquid fuels.

In addition, the heavy industry and manufacturing sectors are expected to add around 15 bill cu m of demand during this period, while gas use in oil refining is forecast to increase by more than 4 bill cu m, as more Indian refineries connect to the network.

India's domestic gas production, which met 50% of demand in 2023, is projected to grow gradually, reaching just under 38 bill cu m by 2030. This would put it around 8% above 2023 levels.

This limited growth in domestic supply means India's LNG imports will need to more than double to around 65 bill cu m per year by 2030 to meet the rising demand.

The country is also looking to increase the share of gas in its energy mix and the report identified potential for even higher growth under an accelerated scenario, where targeted policy measures could push total demand to around 120 bill cu m by 2030 - comparable to South America's current gas consumption.

This scenario would require additional policy support to drive higher utilisation of gas-fired power plants, faster adoption of LNG in heavy-duty transport, and more rapid expansion of city gas infrastructure.

Looking ahead, the report stressed the need for strategic planning in LNG procurement and import infrastructure.

As legacy contracts expire, India faces a widening gap between contracted supply and projected demand after 2028, potentially increasing exposure to spot market volatility unless new long-term contracts are secured in the coming years, the report warned. ■

# NEWS BRIEFS

## ADNOC Gas signs Indian supply agreements

ADNOC Gas has confirmed the previously announced signing of a 14-year sales and purchase agreement (SPA) with Indian Oil Corp (IOC) for the supply of up to 1.2 mill tonnes per annum of LNG.

This agreement converts the previous Heads of Agreement between the parties into an SPA, with first deliveries to begin in 2026.

The agreement is valued at between $7 bill to $9 bill over the 14-year period.

This agreement also builds on ADNOC Gas' strategy to expand its customer base, following a series of LNG agreements signed over the past two years.

These deals have ranged from 0.4 mill tonnes per annum to 1.2 mill tonnes and they are for periods up to 14 years.

The LNG will be supplied from ADNOC Gas' Das Island liquefaction facility, which has a production capacity of up to 6 mill tonnes per annum.

In addition, ADNOC Gas will supply 2.5 mill tonnes of LNG to India's Bharat Petroleum Corp (BPCL) under a new five-year deal, sources said this week.

Indian's state refiner will receive 40 cargoes of LNG under the five-year contract with supplies beginning from April.

In the initial two years, supplies would be less and will be gradually ramped up, one of the sources said.

## Golar exits the LNGC segment

Golar LNG is exiting the LNGC market by selling its last conventional gas carrier, the 2003 built steam turbine 'Golar Arctic'.

The sale price is $24 mill before transaction related expenses. The LNGC is unencumbered.

This sale is expected to close, and the vessel handed over to her new owner, believed to be Soechi, within the first quarter of this year.

'Fuji LNG' discharged her final cargo as an LNGC in January, 2025, and has arrived in China before entering the CIMC shipyard for conversion into a MKII FLNG later this month.

Golar CEO, Karl Fredrik Staubo, commented: "The sale of the 'Golar Arctic' marks the conclusion of Golar's planned exit from the LNG shipping segment, 50 years after taking delivery of our first LNG carrier in 1975.

"Over the last 50 years LNG shipping has been the foundation for Golar's pioneering maritime LNG infrastructure advances, including FSRUs and FLNGs.

"Golar's transition into a focused FLNG infrastructure company is now complete. We look forward to expanding our market leading FLNG position," he said. ■

# Will Mozambique LNG go ahead?

TotalEnergies' delayed Mozambique LNG project outlook is increasingly uncertain.

According to the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA), the company had failed to convince the outgoing US Biden administration to release $4.7 bill in funding for the project, quoting an article in the UK's *Financial Times* at the end of last month.

The $20 bill project - due to become the largest direct foreign investment in Africa – secured funding in 2020. However, the following year TotalEnergies declared *force majeure* after violence flared up in the north of Mozambique by Islamist insurgents close to the project site.

Funding from the US Export-Import Bank, as well as from the UK and Netherlands' governments, now must be re-approved.

As the FT reported, disclosed letters to the Biden administration from the company's CEO, Patrick Pouyanné, highlighted concerns that the transition to the Trump administration would add further delays that could "undermine the financing structure, already in place and approved, and bring the entire project to a stop."

There are now key questions over whether the US, UK and Netherlands will want to approve the project, and indeed whether they should, IEEFA said.

It remains to be seen whether the Trump administration will be in favour of funding Mozambique LNG given its 'America first' stance and the lack of any US participation in the project.

In January, President Trump signed the Unleashing American Energy executive order, which ended the pause on further LNG export permits. Does this fit with US funding for a French, Japanese, Indian and Thai project, particularly in the context of questionable long-term LNG demand?

### Project risks

The participating governments should also consider the risks and controversies plaguing the project, IEEFA said.

Pouyanné told investors in October, 2024 that the project would be restarted by the end of that year. But it was delayed again after violence broke out in Mozambique following disputed elections, which European Union observers concluded were "marked by anomalies and serious flaws".

There is fresh controversy over the presence of Rwandan troops in northern Mozambique. They were sent there in 2021 to quell the Islamist insurgency and pave the way for the restart of the LNG project.

The EU has been funding Rwanda's deployment, and TotalEnergies has hired a security company backed by the Rwandan ruling party to guard the project.

France has demanded that Rwandan forces leave the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), following an escalation of violence in that country.

Will an EU member, such as the Netherlands, still want to fund an LNG project protected by Rwandan forces amid calls to reduce Western support for the regime? IEEFA asked.

Apart from the controversies, there is another good reason potential financiers shouldn't back the project.

As IEEFA has been warning, lacklustre demand growth and a huge wave of new export capacity are poised to send global LNG markets into oversupply, pushing down prices.

The US and Qatar account for much of the new supply, due to come online but increases could also come from the Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Gabon and later Tanzania, plus of course, Mozambique.

In addition, demand growth does not look like it will be sufficient to match this new supply. European imports may rise in 2025 but IEEFA expected LNG demand in Europe, Japan and South Korea to fall through 2030.

Together these countries account for more than half of global LNG imports.

Meanwhile, the idea that LNG will be a bridge fuel that will allow China to reduce its coal consumption is not playing out.

China's astonishing rate of wind and solar installation and reliance on gas imports via pipeline mean the country's demand will likely disappoint LNG exporters.

The International Institute for Sustainable Development has also warned that the financial benefits of LNG development in Mozambique will be weighted towards multinational oil and gas companies, with little left for the country itself. ■

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Iraq to build offshore LNG import terminal

Iraq is planning to build an offshore platform to receive LNG.

This follows the loss of most of its gas supplies from Iran, a source has said to the official Iraqi New Agency (INA).

Hamza Abdel Baqi, Director of South Gas Co said Iraq would soon award a contract for the construction of the platform and pipelines that link the facility to onshore infrastructure to supply southern power facilities with gas.

"Iraq is now working to build an LNG import platform and a network of pipelines to link it with onshore facilities, which feed power stations," he told INA.

Baqi did not disclose the supply sources but Iraq had considered importing Qatari LNG in 2022 to face a rapid increase in domestic demand.

In 2024, OPEC's second largest oil producer signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Turkmenistan for the supply of nearly 20 mill cu m of gas per day but energy analysts believed the contract may never materialise, due to its high risks, as the gas will be transported via Iran's pipelines, which are under Western sanctions.

Iraq controls nearly 3.5 trill cu m of natural gas reserves, which have remained largely untapped in recent years, due to various conflicts.

### Saverex launches Exmar buyout bid

Nicolas Saverys' Belgian investment company, Saverex said that on 11th February, 2025 the Belgian Financial Services and Markets Authority (FSMA) approved the prospectus regarding the voluntary and conditional public takeover bid for all shares issued by Exmar not already owned by the company or persons affiliated with it.

The bid's initial acceptance period opened on 13th February, 2025 at a price of €11.50 per share and will run until 13th March.

The price will be reduced on a euro-for-euro basis by the gross amount of any distributions made by Exmar to its shareholders (including a dividend, distribution of share premiums, capital reduction or in any other form).

Results of the initial acceptance period will be announced on 20th March, 2025.

Saverex had already made a takeover bid for Exmar in 2023, gaining control of over 80% of the shares. This new bid aims to completely de-list the company from the Belgian stock exchange.

"The board of directors unanimously supports the bid and recommends that shareholders accept the offer," Exmar said in a statement. ■


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# ORLEN delivered more LNG last year

In 2024, the Polish energy company, ORLEN Group delivered nearly 244,000 tonnes of LNG to customers last year, an almost 30% increase year-on-year.

The LNG was mainly sourced from the Świnoujście import terminal, plus from the transhipment terminal in Klaipėda, and the company's own production facilities.

Świnoujście had more than 11,000 tanker trucks leaving from its loading bays last year to deliver 197,000 tonnes of gas.

"The steady growth of the ORLEN Group's small-scale LNG sales in Poland demonstrates the appeal of LNG as fuel and underscores the competitiveness of our commercial offering.

"LNG transported in tanker trucks provides access to low-carbon fuel in regions beyond the reach of the national gas network. Moreover, the expansion of the small-scale LNG market supports the transition of Poland's economy, where natural gas plays a vital role in meeting the energy needs," said Grzegorz Bujnowski, ORLEN's Executive Director for Gas Trading.

While most of the imported volumes at Świnoujście are regasified and injected into the transmission pipeline network, some remained in its liquefied state, enabling it to be delivered to customers via specialist cryogenic road tanker trucks and containers.

In addition to the sales operations conducted at the Świnoujście plant, ORLEN produces LNG at its facilities in Odolanów and Grodzisk Wielkopolski. It has also been selling LNG from the Klaipėda transhipment terminal since 2020.

In total, the Group marketed nearly 244,000 tonnes of LNG last year: 197,000 tonnes from Świnoujście, over 22,000 tonnes from Odolanów and Grodzisk Wielkopolski, and 25,000 tonnes from Klaipėda.

Key LNG recipients included industrial customers across various sectors, as well as private consumers connected to off-grid gas systems, which rely on LNG deliveries that are subsequently regasified at local stations.

LNG is also used in regions having access to the Polish national distribution network where demand for gas exceeds the capacity of existing pipelines.

In these cases, LNG regasification stations help bridge the gap in gas supply, ensuring that customer needs are fully met, ORLEN said. ■

**Świnoujście LNG import terminal**

# Svanehøj's gauging systems fitted on Gate Terminal's storage tanks

The Netherland's Gate Terminal fourth new storage tank will be fitted with Svanehøj's gauging system.

The Danish equipment supplier also fitted gauging systems on the first three tanks at the LNG import, storage, regasification and transhipment terminal, located at the Maasvlakte, near Rotterdam.

**Three of Gate terminal's storage tanks seen under construction**

Gate Terminal's expansion project includes a new 180,000 cu m LNG storage tank and an additional regasification capacity of 4 bill cu m per annum.

Last December, the project reached a significant milestone when a large 725 tonne metal roof was lifted to the top of the newly constructed tank, which completed the project's second phase.

The third phase will include the mechanical assembly of the reservoir, with the goal of beginning hydraulic testing before the end of 2025.

Svanehøj claimed that it had contributed to the project by providing advanced gauging systems that ensure precision and safety in LNG storage, providing a comprehensive instrumentation solution for the new storage tank, ensuring precise monitoring and measurement of temperature, density, and level variations in the stored LNG.

The company's tank gauging systems have been fitted in several European LNG terminals, from La Coruña in Spain to Świnoujście in Poland, all of which utilise the company's LTD gauge for accurate density measurements. ■