



Pakistan sells surplus LNG from January 2026

Pakistan is preparing to sell excess LNG, imported from Qatargas and Italy's Eni, starting from January 1, 2026, after lower gas-burn for power generation created a surplus, petroleum minister Ali Pervaiz Malik said. The Government initially sought to sell excess LNG imports to domestic gas customers, but this move increased circular debt and caused losses of around Rs1,000 billion, equivalent of US\$3.55 billion.

“From January 1, we will sell this excess fuel in international markets and reduce our burden while limiting the loss caused by it,” Malik told a press conference. The petroleum minister underlined the government was trying to erase circular debt and lower dependence on imported oil and gas by stepping up imports from Azerbaijan.

LNG volumes contracted by Pakistan under long-term SPAs amount to 6.75 million tons per annum (mtpa):

- Qatargas supplies 3.75 mtpa under a 15-year contract running through to 2031, priced at 13.37% of Brent oil, and there's a contract for a further 3 mtpa running through 2032 for Qatari



View of Pakistan's largest LNG terminal

LNG, priced at 10.2% of Brent. Due to falling gas demand, five Qatari cargoes were deferred from 2025 to 2026 at no penalty.

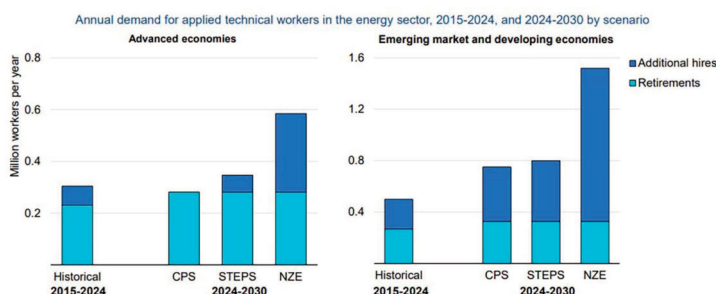
- From Italy's Eni, Pakistan imports 1 mtpa of LNG over 15-year tenure, 12.14% indexed to the Brent oil price. An additional six Eni cargoes – due for delivery between July and December 2025 – will be diverted overseas by request of Sui Northern Gas Pipelines.

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Skilled labour shortage threatens global energy sector growth

More than 76 million people are employed in the global energy sector which contributed 2.4% of all net jobs created across the global economy over the past five years. Labour shortages, however, will limit employment growth to 1.3% in 2025, early data compiled by the International Energy Agency (IEA) finds.

Employment in the global energy sector has been expanding twice as fast as the rate of the overall economy over the past years. But the supply of newly qualified workers is not keeping pace with the sector's needs. To prevent the skills gap from widening further by 2030, the number of new qualified



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The line-pack in Pakistan's gas infrastructure is simply too high to accommodate any more natural gas. Domestic production has been downscaled as a consequence and already back in June 2025, the Pakistani government initiated the diversion of six LNG cargoes – delivered by Eni under a 15-year agreement – to the global spot market, bringing the total up to 11.

But despite the diversion of one LNG cargo each month, there has been no respite in the line pack gas pressure since February. On the contrary, falling gas-burn for power generation – due to the fast adoption of hybrid solar power and energy storage solutions – exacerbates the gas oversupply in the country.

Data from Pakistan's National Electric Power Regulatory Authority shows LNG-fuelled power generation declined 4% to 17,847 gigawatt-hours (GWh) in the first 10 months of this fiscal year, down from 18,571 GWh a year earlier. The share of LNG in the country's energy mix dropped to 17.7% from 18.4%, as the green energy transition progresses. ■

Ofgem set out grid connection reform, with late fees for TSOs

Britain's energy regulator Ofgem has outlined a reform package aimed at accelerating grid connection system, warning network operators they face financial penalties if they fail to meet new performance targets.

The announcement follows a decision by the National Energy System Operator (NESO) to prioritise a new pipeline of deliverable projects targeting up to £90 billion of investment in electricity transmission and gas networks to reduce customers' exposure to volatile energy prices.

Asymmetry of risk

Delays have, however, pushed some power gen projects back by several years beyond their original connection dates, with

developers reporting losses in the tens of millions of pounds and cost increases of up to 200%.

The current regime creates an "asymmetry of risk," Ofgem criticised, whereby developers carry most of the financial impact while transmission operators face no penalties for delay. The regulator's newly proposed grid connection regime hence includes enforceable deadlines and expanded penalty mechanisms for missed milestones.

In terms of generating assets, Ofgem's proposals support new clean-energy generation, large-scale storage, low-voltage connections for electric-vehicle charging and heating, and demand from industrial sites and data centres. ■



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entrants into the energy sector globally would need to rise by 40%.

The IEA's *World Energy Employment 2025* report shows that this would require an additional \$2.6 billion per year of investment globally, representing less than 0.1% of spending on education worldwide.

Increasing electrification of other sectors of the economy is reshaping employment trends, with jobs in EV manufacturing and batteries surging by nearly 800 000 in 2024. Fossil fuel employment, meanwhile, remained resilient – especially in Asia.

However, applied technical roles such as electricians, pipefitters, line workers, plant operators and nuclear engineers are in

short supply. An ageing workforce is intensifying the pressure, with 2.4 energy workers in advanced economies nearing retirement for every new entrant under 25. Nuclear- and grid-related professions face some of the steepest demographic challenges, with retirements outnumbering new entrants by ratios of 1.7 and 1.4 to 1 respectively.

IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol urged governments, industry and training institutions to come together to close the labour and skills gap. "Left unaddressed, these shortages could slow progress, raise costs and weaken energy security," he warned. ■

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Torrent Power secures term LNG supply from JERA

India's Torrent Power has signed a 10-year LNG purchase agreement with Japan's largest power producer JERA. Under the 10-year contract starting in 2027, Torrent Power will receive four LNG cargoes annually, delivered ex-ship from JERA's global LNG portfolio.

The deal marks JERA's first long-term LNG sale outside Japan and highlights Torrent's strategy to strengthen fuel security for its gas-based assets. The four contracted LNG cargoes amount to around 270,000 tonnes annually.

Securing term LNG

By securing term LNG volumes, Torrent aims to reduce reliance on volatile spot markets while ensuring a stable natural gas supply

for its power plant assets.

The contracted LNG volumes from JERA will stabilise fuel supply for Torrent's 2,730 MW combined-cycle power gen capacity, enhancing their dispatchability and help meet India's growing demand for flexible power.

In a similar deal, executed this June, Torrent signed a sales and purchase agreement with BP Singapore for up to 0.41 million metric tonnes per year of LNG. Volumes

will be imported through the Petronet-operated Dahej LNG terminal with a capacity of 17.5 mtpa. Under the agreement, Torrent Power will receive six LNG cargoes annually from 2027 to 2036, with deliveries primarily scheduled during the summer months. ■



Petronet's Dahej LNG terminal

Eni LNG deals to improve Thailand's electricity supply



Thailand's utilities will gain fuel security and more stable power generation costs from a new long-term LNG supply agreement between Italy's Eni and Gulf Development Co. The deal helps moderate future power price volatility in a regional gas market heavily dependent on imported LNG.

Under the 10-year contract, Eni will supply about 0.8 mtpa of LNG to Gulf starting in 2027, with cargoes delivered via Thailand's regasification terminals.

Gulf Development Co, one of the nation's largest private power producers, will use the imported fuel for gas-fired generation and support rising electricity demand. The agreement expands on a two-year contract signed in 2024 for around 0.5 mtpa, which began deliveries earlier this year. It also marks Eni's first long-term LNG supply to Thailand.

For Eni, the accord strengthens its presence in Asia and supports its target to grow LNG sales to about 20 million tonnes annually by 2030, leveraging new production from projects in Congo, Mozambique, the U.S., and Indonesia. ■

Burning coal more profitable than gas in the United States

Spark and dark spreads – common profitability metrics of gas- and coal-power plants – have both increased in the United States over the past two years. Yet, the dark spreads outnumber spark spreads, indicating the favourable economics of burning coal.

Between January and November 2025, the dark spread averaged \$21/MWh compared with the spark spread at around \$28/MWh, figures by the US Energy Information Administration (EIA) show.

Dark spread up 250%

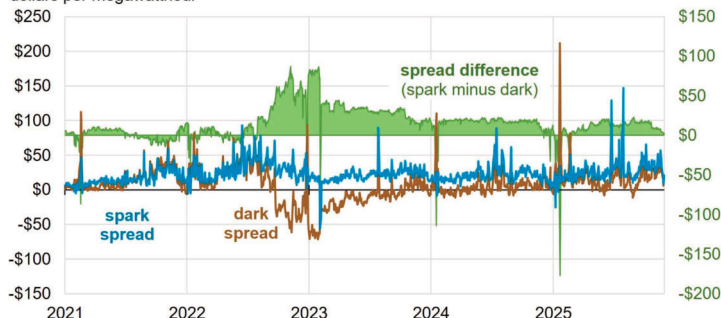
Growth momentum for the dark spread has been staggering: In 2023, the January through November dark spread averaged negative \$14 per MWh, since the fuel cost was higher than the wholesale price of electricity. But since then, the spread increased to nearly \$21/MWh in 2025.

In 2025, the dark spread increased nearly 250% in the first 11 months of the

year compared with the same period during 2024, even though the average price of coal increased 5% over the same period.

The spark spread for natural gas meanwhile, a similar measure of revenue relative to fuel costs for gas-fired generators, gained ground from a January through November average of \$21/MWh in 2023 to just above \$28/MWh over the course of this year.

Daily PJM Western Hub spark spread and dark spread (Jan 2021–Nov 2025)
dollars per megawatthour



Data source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, based on data from S&P Global Market Intelligence
Data note: The specifics of the calculation methodology are detailed in a previous article with minor adjustments to heat rates used. The heat rate used for the dark spread was 10,500 British thermal units per kilowatthour (Btu/kWh), while the heat rate for the spark spread was 7,000 Btu/kWh.



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Vietnam's first LNG-fuelled power plant to start up December 20

Nhon Trach Unit 4 — one of two units at Vietnam's first LNG-fired power plant — is scheduled to begin commercial operations on December 20. PetroVietnam invested an estimated \$1.4 billion in the twin units, which have a combined capacity of 1,620 MW.

Located in southern Dong Nai province, Nhon Trach 3&4 are expected to supply about 9 – 12 billion kWh to Vietnam's power grid each year once fully commissioned and ramped up. Equipment installation and pre-commissioning work have proceeded on schedule, PV Power said.

Capital expenditure for the two units is estimated at US\$1.4 billion, structured with a 75:25 debt-to-equity ratio. PetroVietnam

provided US\$434 million from its own balance sheet, complemented by roughly US\$1.05 billion in debt financing arranged through loans from Vietcombank, SMBC, Citi and ING.

Nhon Trach 3 and 4 will be the first plants in Vietnam to operate entirely on imported LNG. By comparison, the Phu My 3, Phu My 2.1 and Phu My 4 facilities use LNG only intermittently, when pipeline gas supplies run short.



Nhon Trach Units 3&4 are being repowered to LNG

Looking ahead, PV Power is preparing to advance a second LNG-fired project — the US\$2 billion Thai Binh LNG Power plant. Construction is slated to begin in December, with commercial operations targeted for 2030. ■

Wärtsilä engines to power 120 MW plant in Western Australia

Zenith Energy, an Australian Independent Power Producer (IPP), has contracted Wärtsilä to supply the engines, controls, and auxiliary equipment for a new 120 MW power plant in Kalgoorlie.

The plant will electrify Western Australia's largest gold mines in Kalgoorlie, owned by Northern Star Resources. Start of power generation anticipated in mid-2027.

Zenith Energy is a repeat customer for Wärtsilä. The latest engine order win follows an order for an energy storage system, delivered in early 2022. This 9.2 MW / 8.7MWh energy storage addresses cyclical load demand in the underground mine at Kalgoorlie, operating in parallel with the projected engine-driven power plant.

Energy storage ensure reliability of power supply which is especially imported for islanded grids. "Adding storage will save the

engines from frequent ramping by managing the power fluctuations of the mining site, therefore improving the operational efficiency, resulting in fuel savings and a lower carbon footprint for the mine's power plant," explained Simon Jelly, Zenith's technology and infrastructure manager.

Based in Belmont, Western Australia, Zenit Energy is specialising in delivering reliable, cost-effective power generation solutions primarily in remote areas in Australia and South East Asia. Under a Build-Own-Operate (BOO) contact, the company provides its clients with the capital to build a decentralized power station, and then owns and operates the facility. ■



View of Northern Star gold mine in Australia

ELGi helps Swedish mineral water maker save electricity



Close-up of EGL compressor

Swedish natural mineral water producer Guttsta Källa has saved 120,000 kWh of electricity per year at an increased production throughput after installing an ELGi compressed-air package.

The solution comprises of EG11 and EG45 compressors, along with receiver tanks, dryers and filter.

ELGi stated the system uses its patented air-end design and control architecture to optimise power consumption and extend equipment life. The installation allowed Guttsta Källa to maintain continuous production during the transition to the new setup.

The project helped increase Guttsta Källa's mineral water production by facilitating higher line speeds while delivering annual energy savings of 120,000 kWh, reducing operating costs. Multi-stage filtration ensured compliance with food-grade compressed-air purity requirements, while stable pressure levels supported accurate filling across the facility. ■

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