



Argentina awards spot LNG cargo ahead of peak winter power demand

Energía Argentina has awarded a spot LNG cargo to Spain's Naturgy, due to arrive at the Escobar floating storage and regasification unit (FSRU), in the second week of May.

Shipment will be arranged on a delivered ex-ship (DES) basis to the Escobar FSRU, where the regasified LNG will be injected into the national gas grid, ensuring supply during periods of peak demand during the Southern Hemisphere winter.

The Escobar FSRU, situated on the Paraná de las Palmas River north of the city of Buenos Aires, is one of Argentina's key LNG import facilities. It ensures security of supply for the greater Buenos Aires area, where winter demand can rise sharply.

Importing LNG remains a vital balancing instrument – despite growing domestic output from the Vaca Muerta shale formation.



Excelerate-chartered FSRU Escobar connects to the Transportadora Gas del Norte pipeline

As part of the tender, held on April 15, Energía Argentina invited 39 prequalified suppliers of which six submitted bids. The fairly limited number of bids reflects buyers' caution amid highly volatile spot LNG prices.

Naturgy secured the award but has not disclosed the contract

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Germany to hold first gas power plant tender in September

The German government prepares to tender around 9 GW of dispatchable gas-fired power generation capacity in September, followed by a second tender in December.

Subsequent tenders are expected to be open not only to new-build projects but also to existing plants and other technologies capable of delivering dispatchable capacity, according to the draft cited by the German business daily Handelsblatt.

Auctioned as 'backup generation', the initial round of tendered gas power capacity is meant to provide reliable electricity supply at times when



RWE render of a H2-ready gas power plant

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value. The final value of the tender hinges on the delivery window, shipping costs and supplier pricing structures.

The envisaged May delivery marks on of the first LNG procurements for the 2026 winter season – though market observers anticipate further tenders in the coming weeks as state-owned Energía Argentina seeks to facilitate adequate supply coverage will keeping import costs in check.

Vaca Muerta shale reshapes supply dynamics

Argentina's upstream investment is on track to reach a record \$11 billion. If export

restrictions, capital controls, energy price controls and infrastructure bottlenecks are fully removed, S&P Global analysts believe Vaca Muerta – Argentina's largest unconventional hydrocarbon deposit – could produce an additional 40% in crude volumes and an additional 30% in natural gas volumes by 2030.

LNG and crude oil exports could triple Argentina's local demand in less than ten years, the former energy secretary Emilio Apud reckons – and hydrocarbons together with lithium mining are meant to sweep export dollars into Argentina's ailing economy.

Rising gas production in Argentina and

Brazil are set to reshape regional supply dynamics. "The region will evolve from the current state of Bolivia balancing Brazil and Argentina and Argentina exporting seasonally to Chile to a state in 2033 where Argentina and Chile will be integrated, Bolivia will be producing only for its internal market and Brazil will be supplied by domestic production and by firm LNG offtake," said Eduardo Seraphim, gas research analyst for Wood Mackenzie. However, this requires Brazil and Argentina to develop domestic infrastructure which in the latter's case is hampered by macroeconomic uncertainties. ■

EU power price held stable at €90/MWh despite LNG crunch

Though the Middle East conflict disrupted 80 mtpa of LNG exports, fuel diversification helped stabilise gas and power prices across Europe's five major markets at over €90/MWh in March, while month-ahead gas prices peaked at \$19/MMBtu in April.

The latest Qatari LNG supply shock matched the scale of Russia's 2022 pipeline gas curtailment into Europe, according to data released by Wood Mackenzie. But three factors contained prices:

- milder weather left European storage at 28% capacity at end-March,
- project start-ups added 40 mtpa of new LNG supply (on an annualized

basis) since the beginning of 2026,

- and China's LNG demand fell sharply as the country turned to alternatives.

As a result, forward gas prices eased to \$15/MMBtu in May 2026, only 20% above the 2025 average.

Europe's annual power generation from gas has fallen nearly 13% since early 2022 – spearheaded by the Netherlands where gas- and coal-burn in the Netherlands fell from 49% to 36% between February and March. In Spain, 60% renewables penetration lowered wholesale power prices to €42/MWh in March 2026, while rising solar power supply allowed German utilities to reduce reliance on fos-

sil generation from 46% in February to 39% in March.

Battery storage in Australia increased its share of price-setting from approximately 2% in early 2022 to 20% by late 2025, while gas-fired generation halved from 10% to under 5%.

"The Ukraine war illustrated for Europe the benefits of diversifying away from volatile fossil fuels," said Peter Osbaldstone, WoodMac's Research Director, Europe Power. "Battery storage and renewables set prices with increasing frequency, reducing the influence of gas. That structural shift insulated power markets when this crisis hit." ■

Gas to Power Journal

Publisher
Stuart Fryer

Editor
Anja Karl
anja@gastopowerjournal.com

Advertising
Narges Jodeyri
narges@lngjournal.com

New Business & Databases
Stephan Venter
Tel: +44 (0) 207 017 3407
venter@lngjournal.com

Subscriptions Renewals and
Customer Care
Gabi Weck
gabi@lngjournal.com

Layout & Production
Vivian Chee
vivian@lngjournal.com

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wind and solar output is weak. Government officials argue that launching the tenders early is critical given the long lead-times.

Large production backlogs are causing a global shortage of gas turbines which delays and inflates costs of gas-fired power projects. Some turbine makers advise developers to plan 7-8 years ahead for turbine procurement.

GE Vernova, Siemens Energy, and MHI since 2015 collectively supply around 90% of global heavy-duty turbine orders. The three major turbine makers all plan to scale up manufacturing capacity to meet surging global demand:

- GE Vernova is expanding its factories in

Greenville, U.S. and Belfort, France, to boost heavy-duty turbine output.

- Siemens Energy has stated it will increase production efficiency and staffing at its Berlin and Charlotte factories.
- MHI is investing in new production lines at its Takasago Works in Japan to shorten delivery lead times.

But analysts doubt these expansions will ease short-term shortages due to persistent constraints in materials, components, and skilled labour. On the contrary, ramping up manufacturing capacity quickly could expose manufacturers to financial risk – once utilities start favouring solar PV and energy storage over turbine-driven fossil power generation. ■

PJM queue crunch makes developer pre-order equipment

The load queue in PJM, the regional grid operator in the US Mid-Atlantic and parts of the Midwest, is now long enough to shape new build decisions. Active queue data show 1,010 PJM requests totalling 119.63 GW, developers are bypassing the traditional wait-and-see model and are locking in power gen equipment early.

Data centers, in particular, break away from the old EPC model and adopt a new funding approach to bear more of their own infrastructure costs. If a backstop power auction is used, data center developers tend to allocate 100% of those associated costs to large loads.

Pre-ordering turbines

Xcel Energy intends to reach 3 GW of contracted data-center service by the end of 2026, and 6 GW by the end of 2027. To meet this ambitious timescale the utility said it is purchasing five additional gas turbines and reserving turbine supply “years ahead.”

The rampant build-out of AI hyperscalers heralds the risk of power shortages. PJM's 2027 capacity auction shows a 6 GW shortfall – the first failure to meet reliability targets in the grid operator's history. Data centers account for 94% of projected load growth as capacity prices reached a record \$333/MW-day.

In Pennsylvania, data center capacity is projected to rise from 182 MW this year to more than 7,196 MW by 2036, a more than 4,000% increase. In PJM's Dominion zone, one analysis cited a jump from a 2022 forecast of 5,700 MW by 2037 to more than 20,000 MW in the 2025 forecast, underscoring how quickly hyperscaler demand assumptions are being revised upward.

Asia's AI build-out faces power crunch

Electricity shortages not only limit America's

data center built-out, similar constraints impact Asia-Pacific's AI industry, reshaping project financing and site selection, Deloitte said. It expects load growth from big data in the region to rise from under 200 TWh currently to over 1,000 TWh by the mid-2030s.

This AI-driven load growth coincides with broader electrification trends which may boost regional electricity demand across Asia Pacific by nearly 50% through to 2040. But grid expansion is not keeping pace: In Tokyo, the pipeline of data centre projects is more than double the planned increase in power supply to 2030. Will Symons, Deloitte's APAC Sustainability leader told AsianPower.

Energy cost is another pressing issue, considering electricity makes up 60% of data centre operating expenses. High and volatile energy prices undermine return-on-investment. In response, the Big Data industry is shifting towards a “power-first” investment model, Symons observed, as “energy becomes the primary constraint that shapes where... projects are developed.” Under this approach, developers select sites based on access to power rather than proximity to users. Locations with access to renewable power are gaining traction.



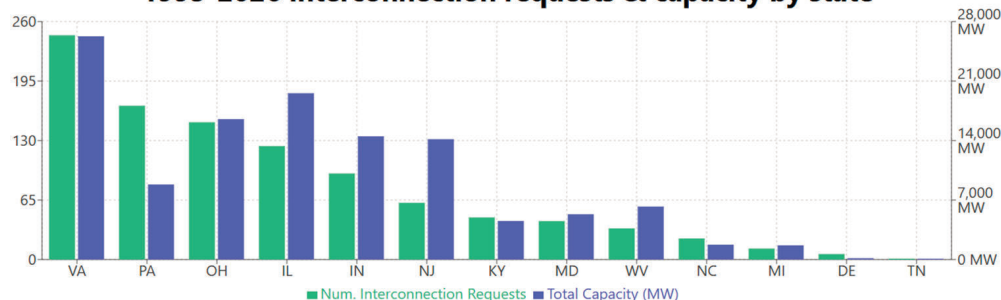
Tokyo Fuchu Data Center

Access to electricity also determines project timelines. Developers and financiers now require early commitments to power supply. In some markets, developers are building power supply with projects under “bring your own power” models.

That shift is linking the development of data centers and related energy sources – often in a decentralized approach. Developers are combining power generation, storage, and data centres in single portfolios to manage costs and reduce exposure to electricity price swings. ■

No. requests Total capacity
1,010 119.63
GW
For applied filters

1995-2026 interconnection requests & capacity by state



NEWS NUDGES

Hitachi, Samsung team up on HVAC grids

Hitachi Energy and Samsung C&T are expanding their collaboration on high-voltage alternating current (HVAC) grid infrastructure. Flexibility is critical in today's energy markets, hence the two partners place AC solution at the core of efficient transmission and cross border electricity flows.

Biomass challenges gas power on fuel costs

Emerson has been selected by Strategic Biofuels to automate a \$2 billion biomass power project in Louisiana, as developers wood-fired plants with CCS outcompeted gas-fired generation on fuel costs, and Capex trade-offs. Situated in Caldwell Parish, the LGF plant will produce 100 MW of carbon-neutral, dispatchable electricity for the state grid.

Net Zero Teesside advances towards 2028 launch

Net Zero Teesside (NZN), the UK's flagship gas power and CCS projects, is making strides towards a 2028 start-up. Construction began mid-2025 on the 742 MW power plant, which will capture up to 2 million tonnes of CO₂ yearly for North Sea storage.

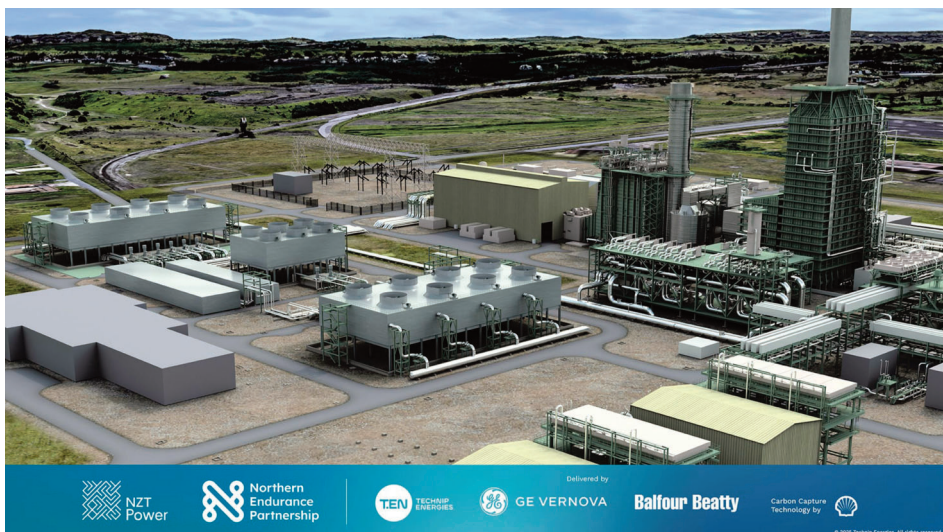
NZT Power – the core gas-fired power station component – is a joint venture between BP and Equinor, with BP as operator.

As a Track 1 East Coast Cluster project, NZT benefits from the government's £21.7 billion CCUS allocation, including Dispatchable Power Agreements under Contracts for Difference (CfD)-like terms for abated gas-fired power generation.

The £8 billion project financing, using limited-recourse structures, covers NZT Power and the NEP, the CO₂ transport and storage infrastructure. The projects unlock £4 billion in UK supply chain contracts across eight EPC packages awarded to firms like Technip Energies, GE Vernova, Costain, and Saipem.

Construction is accelerating, with recent updates showing equipment arriving at Redcar Bulk Terminal and £1.5 billion in East Coast Cluster supply-chain deals.

Critics dismiss the "vast subsidies" for Net Zero Teesside, amounting to £23 billion,



Render of Net-Zero-Teesside-Power

claiming UK electricity consumers will pay for most of this. Given that this single project will account for less than 3% of the UK's 2050 CCS target, analysts at the IEEFA urges EU member states to reconsider any attempts to decarbonise gas power plants with CCS. ■

GE bags order for AGP upgrade at two power plants in Egypt

GE Vernova has been contracted to modernise two 9F gas turbines at the Bahna and Nubaria power plants in Egypt. The Advanced Gas Path upgrades will increase each unit's output and raise efficiency by about 2%.

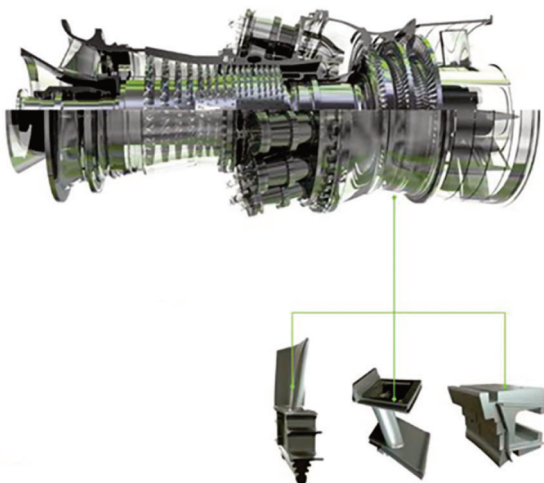
The order was awarded by Middle Delta Electricity Production Company, the operator of the plants and an affiliate of Egyptian Electricity Holding Company (EEHC). The AGP upgrades are part of a wider effort to modernize Egypt's power generation infrastructure and im-

prove energy efficiency.

Across 9F.01, .02, .03 turbines, the AGP offers up to 8% higher output and 2% CC heat rate reduction for customers seeking full load fuel savings. An 9F.03 AGP Flex upgrade offers up to 0.8% heat rate reduction and suits utilities running their turbine primarily at part load, GE Vernova specified.

This projects in Egypt will be executed over three years. Once complete, the AGP upgrade will allow the plants to generate more electricity with lower fuel use per megawatt hour and helping to reduce carbon intensity on a kg/MWh basis.

In addition to the upgrades, GE Vernova is providing multiyear services agreements for the two plants. The Bahna agreement spans 15 years, while the Nubaria contract runs for 8 years. ■



Singapore floats tender for 3x600

Singapore's Energy Market Authority (EMA) has launched a tender for up to three new 600 MW gas-fired power plants. Private sector developers are invited to build, own and operate the plants – one due operational by 2031 and another two in 2032.

With this tender, the city state prepares for rising electricity demand driven by industrial and digital growth. Peak electricity demand in Singapore is forecast to grow between 2.4% and 4.8% over the next decade and could reach up to 11.4 GW – compared with current levels of 8.5 GW.

The new CCGTs will add dispatchable capacity to meet peak loads and support grid stability, particularly as Singapore imports more variable solar power projects in Riau Islands and Sumatra.

The planned CCGTs will be designed to run on natural gas initially, with the capability to switch to hydrogen in the future. H₂-readiness aligns with Singapore's strategy to decarbonise its power generation sector in a system heavily reliant on imported LNG.

EMA has previously indicated that hydrogen could account for up to half of Singapore's power mix by 2050, depending on technological and cost developments. ■

Global helium supply choked by Strait of Hormuz blockade

With Qatar producing a third of the world's helium supply, the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz paralyzing a major transport route for manufacturers of semiconductors and next-generation batteries.

Helium's chemical inertness, high thermal conductivity, and extremely low boiling point make it essential for the production of Superconducting Magnetic Energy Storage (SMES) systems. The gas is also essential as dilutant in plasma etching, to cool wafers, or for leak and safety testing of pipelines and power generation equipment.

Known helium reserves are situated

mainly in Qatar, US, Algeria, Russia, Canada, and China, with Qatar having the largest reserves of over 10,000 million cubic metres. The Emirate is the world's second largest producer and supplies over a third of the world's helium supply – not least because the gas is a by-product of natural gas processing.

Both Russia and Qatar sought to expand helium production – “but with Qatar's Ras

Laffan taking the hit and shut down, this is already having an impact on helium pricing and supply, IDTechEx analysts noted.

“Even if facilities restart now – even partially, there will be a backlog whose implication will be felt across the value chain,” they warned.

Opportunity for US players

Alternatively, helium can be sourced from the US and Canada as there are geological hotspots where helium concentrations in reserves can be present at concentrations ranging from 0.3-10 percent

“This opens opportunities for smaller players to enter the field,” analysts commented with reference to technology developers such as Houston-based Generon and Unconventional Gas Solutions (UGS).

Low-capex separation systems, such as membrane and PSA technologies, can be used to upgrade and purify the helium acquired from these sources, with the North American manufacturers trying to adopt one or a hybrid system of these technologies. If production challenges persist, industry will make more efforts to conserve or recycle helium – both in semiconductor manufacturing and energy storage.

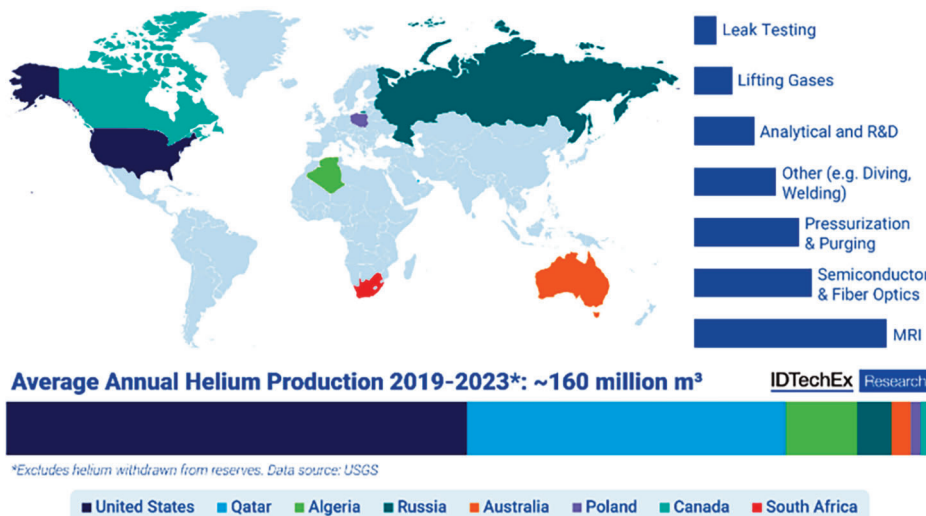


Figure 1: Key production sources and applications of helium. Source: IDTechEx

Millions of EV batteries can be reused for energy storage

As consumers embrace electric cars, around one million tons of EV batteries could be available for reuse by 2030. Connected Energy already installed several second life battery energy storage systems across Europe, providing grid operators with peak shaving frequency response and supplying on-demand power for micro grid applications.

The Newcastle-based company combines EV batteries with financial modelling so that second life energy storage systems can be bought through regular monthly payments, with a service contract that includes swapping out the batteries as needed. “A second life energy system can deliver the same duty cycles and energy services as a system using new batteries, but dramatically extends the life of vehicle batteries,” CEO Matthew Lumsden said.

The reuse of EV batteries saves resources and is being tested in pilot projects worldwide. Japanese researchers, for instance, work on demonstrating a non-roasting method for separating cathode materials from used EV batteries by utilizing JERA's high voltage pulse technology. As a next step, Sumitomo Chemical plans to develop an upcycling technology that raises the cathode materials' performance to at least

the same level as before recycling. This would allow the energy storage units to work as efficiently as the car batteries.

Second-life battery project often incorporate manufacturers of electric vehicles. EDF Energy and Nissan embarked on a project that combines used EV batteries with demand response. EV batteries are typically designed to last over 300,000 miles, and once disused by cars they still have a capacity of up to 70%, according to Nissan and EFD. This may not be enough for fast-accelerating cars, but is certainly sufficient for energy storage.

Cummins and UC San Diego are investigating the performance of stationary energy storage – made from second-life

EV batteries – for embedded grid storage. The focus lies on lithium-ion batteries, which are currently recycled at a rate of less than 5% in the American market. Wärtsilä and Hyundai Motor joined forces already back in 2018 to develop second-life EV batteries in Germany, with Hyundai estimating there will be 29 GW of second-life EV batteries available by 2026.



Reusing EV batteries to save resources

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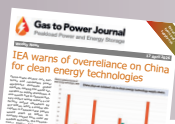
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