



## DEPA wins Bulgargaz LNG tender, delivery to Turkey

Greek gas company DEPA has been awarded an LNG tender, held by Bulgargaz. Delivery of the cargo will be to the Marmara Ereğlisi LNG terminal in Turkey. Bulgaria's gas demand is seasonally sensitive, with industry and households relying on gas as a flexible back-up power source.

For baseload power, Bulgaria relies heavily on nuclear power complemented by net electricity imports from neighbouring grids for peak hour coverage. Still, grid-balancing requires a reasonable buffer of flexible, gas-fired power plants, which the latest LNG tender will help underpin.

The latest tender has been conducted via Balkan Gas Hub, the Bulgarian energy exchange, and concerned the delivery of 1,000,000 MWh of LNG as part of a broader effort to secure adequate gas supplies. Seasonal LNG imports via the Alexandroupolis FSRU in Greece and complementary options like the



BOTAS' Marmara Ereğlisi LNG terminal

BOTAS-operated Marmara Ereğlisi terminal.

### Azeri gas imported via IGP pipeline

In addition to LNG imports, the Interconnector Greece-Bulgaria (IGB) allows the latter to receive 1 bcm of Azeri gas – one-third of the

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## Germany launches €5 billion round of CCfD scheme

Germany has launched the 2026 round of its flagship Carbon Contracts for Difference (CCfD) scheme, with up to €5 billion in state aid, as Berlin seeks to decarbonise energy-intensive sectors – notably chemicals, metals, cement, glass and paper – where electrification or hydrogen switching will raise power demand and require flexible backup capacity.

CCfD contracts are designed to bridge the cost gap between conventional and low-carbon power generation shielding companies from higher operating and fuel cost that utilities tend to hand through to end-customers.

Industrial decarbonisation pathways supported under the contracts – such as electrified processes, hydrogen production via electrolysis, and carbon capture – tend to increase power demand volatility and

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Steelmakers call for a quick launch of the first CCfD tender

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country's annual demand.

The €220 billion IGB pipeline runs from Komotini in north-eastern Greece to Stara Zagora in central Bulgaria. It has an initial capacity of 3 bcm per year, which can later

be expanded to 5 bcm/y.

The IGB link also connects to the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline (TAP), which delivers natural gas from Azerbaijan via the so-called Southern Gas Corridor which

runs through Greece to Italy. At the same time, will provide access to LNG imported either through Greece's Revythousa station or through the new terminal of Alexandroupolis. ■

## Oman launches tender H2-ready power plant

**Oman's state-owned Nama Power and Water Procurement (PWP) company has launched a tender for a hydrogen-ready gas power plant with a capacity between 800 MW and 1 GW. Bidders need to submit their proposals by June 21.**

**T**he envisaged H2-ready power plant will be one of the first projects to use Oman-made hydrogen, which is normally destined for export.

State-owned orchestrator Hydrom has awarded land to eight developers, envisaging for up to 1.2 million tons of green hydrogen production by 2030. A third auction is still underway, offering tax breaks to incentivise more electrolyser projects.

Together with Germany's H2Global Foundation, Hydrom is exploring a double-auction model for structuring Oman's future sales of zero-carbon fuels. Produced hydrogen or derivatives, such as ammonia, are meant to be sold under shorter-term contracts to buyers in Europe or Asia, with the price gap bridged through public or climate finance.

Other recent major procurement activity by Nama PWP has focused on the Misfah

and Duqm Independent Power Projects (IPPs) – two high-efficiency combined-cycle gas turbine (CCGT) plants with a capacity of

2,400 MW combined. These projects are designed to support the Sultanate's broader energy transition. ■



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peak load requirements. This underpins the need for dispatchable capacity, where gas-

fired plants are currently the primary option.

The 2026 auction explicitly allows carbon capture, utilisation and storage projects, provided they address process emissions or hard-to-abate sources, such as in cement. This opens additional pathways for decentralised gas-fired power plant, with the option to retrofit CCS.

Policy-makers in Berlin also eased participation rules to broaden uptake. Projects must now achieve a 50% emissions reduction after four years, compared with 60% after three years previously, and 85% by the final year, down from 90%. This adjustment reflects concerns over technological readi-

ness and cost pressures, especially in industries reliant on continuous high-temperature processes that are difficult to electrify without firm capacity.

Eligibility is limited, however, to companies that took part in a preparatory phase in 2025, aiming to ensure project maturity and faster deployment. Fifteen companies secured contracts in the first auction round two years ago, setting an early benchmark for the scheme's rollout.

To go ahead, Germany's revised and simplified scheme still requires European Commission state aid approval, which the economy ministry expects shortly. ■

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## South Asia pivots to nuclear power amid LNG supply crunch

Bangladesh and Pakistan are fast-tracking plans to expand nuclear power capacity as disruptions to contracted Qatari LNG deliveries and price spikes expose the risk of heavy reliance on imported gas.

Pakistan, a major buyer of Qatari LNG, has faced cargo deferrals and escalating gas and power prices. Islamabad is hence advancing talks with China to expand its nuclear fleet, including additional Hualong One-type reactors, while the government in Dhaka wants to expand Bangladesh nuclear capacity beyond its 2.4 GW Rooppur reactor.

Beijing also cited geopolitical risks as justification for accelerating its ambitious nuclear buildout. Though China is less directly exposed to Qatari LNG supply for power generation, the government approved multiple new reactor projects this year and is prioritizing inland and coastal sites to reduce dependence on imported fuels, including LNG.

The shift reflects a broader reassessment across Asia, where LNG has been a cornerstone of power sector growth but is now

seen as vulnerable to geopolitical choke-points.

"Nuclear is increasingly being viewed as an insurance policy against fuel supply disruption," said one regional energy analyst, noting that recent events have "shifted the balance in favour of firm, domestically anchored generation."

In Southeast Asia, Thailand has reopened consultations on introducing nuclear power into its long-term energy mix, pointing to LNG market volatility and regional supply tightness.

Seasoned LNG importers are reinforcing



Rooppur nuclear reactor, northwest of Dhaka, Bangladesh

similar trends: South Korea has reaffirmed its pro-nuclear policy stance, accelerating reactor life extensions and new builds, while Japan is advancing reactor restarts and next-generation technologies. ■

## Argentine cargo to arrive at Escobar FSRU in early May

Energía Argentina has awarded a spot LNG cargo to Spain's Naturgy at tender, with the shipment 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.

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

The envisaged May delivery marks one 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 while keeping import costs in check. ■



FSRU Escobar, chartered from Exelerate

## QatarEnergy extends force majeure

QatarEnergy has extended *force majeure* on term LNG deliveries through mid-June, with Edison confirming it had been notified of a shortfall of 10 cargoes due between April and mid-June while Petronet expects to receive its full contracted Qatari LNG volumes once Hormuz transits can resume.

The 10 cargoes at risk amount to roughly 1.4–1.6 bcm of natural gas – substantial volumes of fuel for India's gas peaking power stations as the peak summer season approaches.

Petronet, India's largest LNG importer, has been severely impacted of the halt of its Qatari-linked flows due to Strait of Hormuz related shipping disruption. Nonetheless, the company's CEO Akshay Kumar Singh, has expressed confidence that, once security and navigation conditions improve, vessels will be able to resume regular transit and India will receive its full contracted quota of Qatari LNG. ■

## Brazil's GNA LNG-to-power hub eyes 6.4 MW expansion

The Gás Natural Açú (GNA) complex, with 3.4 GW of LNG-fuelled capacity, has become a critical stabiliser of Brazil's increasingly renewable heavy power system. An expansion is under consideration, with the GNA site licensed for capacity up to 6.4 GW.

**S**ituated at the Port of Açú in Rio de Janeiro state, GNA is one of Latin America's largest gas to power hubs. The project is being developed by a consortium including BP, Siemens Energy, Prumo Logística, SPIC and Siemens Financial Services, with total investment of about €1 billion.

The LNG-fuelled complex integrates two combined cycle gas fired power plants – GNA I and GNA II – plus a dedicated floating storage and regasification unit (FSRU). The latter can supply up to 21 million cubic metres of natural gas per day, using seaborne LNG imports for onshore power generation.

GNA I, commissioned in 2021, delivers 1.3 GW from three Siemens Energy SGT 8000H gas turbines and one SST6 5000 HI 50 steam turbine operating in combined

cycle. The plant uses heat recovery to produce roughly one third more electricity without additional fuel.

GNA II, which began commercial operations in 2025, is the largest and most efficient gas fired power plant in Brazil, with 1.7 GW of capacity able to supply around 8 million homes. The facility uses advanced HL class gas turbines and achieves efficiency levels above 60%.

Approximately 40% of GNA II's output is continuously fed into Brazil's National Inter-connected System, providing both firm ca-

capacity and flexibility to back up wind, solar and hydro generation. If expanded to 6.4 GW, the complex would be the largest gas fired energy hub in Latin America. ■



Brazil's GNA complex near Rio de Janeiro

## Ghana to break ground on 1.2 GW gas power plant this year

Ghana plans to begin construction of a 1,200 MW gas-fired power plant before the end of 2026, President John Dramani Mahama announced, specifying technical designs and a financing roadmap is already underway.

**T**he Ministries of Energy and Finance support the project as Ghana's power system is facing peak demand of about 4,300 MW, with consumption continuing to rise due to urbanisation and industrial growth.

Though Ghana's installed power generation capacity exceeds peak demand levels, the country has experienced intermittent black-

outs due to fuel shortages, grid constraints and financial challenge among state utilities. Persistent, irregular blackouts were most intense in the period from late 2012 to 2016, with daily load-shedding schedules disrupting homes, businesses, and industry.

The new 1.2 GW combined-cycle power plant is expected to run primarily on natural gas, in line with Ghana's strategy to leverage domestic production from offshore fields. Additional fuel could be imported via the West African Gas Pipeline. Details on financing and project structure have yet to be disclosed.

Analysts said the planned capacity – equivalent to more than a quarter of current peak demand – could significantly improve supply margins. But structural reforms will be needed in parallel, particularly with regards to gas supply reliability, grid infrastructure and the financial health of state utilities. ■



Ghana's President John D. Mahama announcing the CCGT project

## Sembcorp-led consortium to develop Taweelah C IPP

A consortium led by Singapore's Sembcorp Industries and Saudi Arabia's Al Jomaih Energy & Water Company has been selected to develop the 2.5 GW Taweelah C independent power producer (IPP) project in Abu Dhabi. All electricity will be sold to the state off-taker EWEC under a contract to be signed in mid-May.

Unit C will be situated at the Al Taweelah power and desalination complex, about 50 kilometres northeast of Abu Dhabi city. The combined-cycle plant will be designed to operate in a carbon capture ready configuration, aligning with the UAE's broader climate targets.

EWEC had received three bids for the plant, notably from Al Jomaih Energy & Water Company / Sembcorp Industries; Sumitomo/ Korea Overseas Infrastructure & Urban Development / Korean Midland Power; as well as Korea Western Power / Etihad Water & Electricity / Kyuden.

Mohamed Al Marzooqi, chief asset development and management officer at Ewec, said at the time the submissions would make Taweelah C one of the lowest tariff CCGT projects in the region.

Start of commercial operations of Taweelah C are targeted for the fourth quarter of 2028, based on an execution timeline set in the power purchase agreement (PPA). ■



Taweelah B complex in Abu Dhabi

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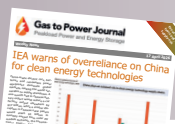
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