



QATAR DRIVES FIRST-QUARTER SURGE IN NEWBUILDS

More Q-Max vessels are expected but other players are due to join the contracting mix in the year ahead. LNG new buildings contracted for Qatari business made up the bulk of orders placed during the first three months of this year, and while some further contracts are due to be inked by producer QatarEnergy, other names are working on fresh business for 2024. According to broker databases and TradeWinds records, at least 43 LNG carriers were contracted in the first quarter of 2024, along with a single floating storage and regasification unit and a lone floating LNG production unit, bringing the total to 45. This compares with 17 LNG carriers in the first quarter of 2023 and close to 70 for that year. Of the 43 LNG carriers contracted in the past three months, 35 were inked by a combination of six shipowners against berths pre-reserved by QatarEnergy in connection with its mammoth LNG shipbuilding project, which has now grown to more than 100 vessels. Eight of these orders were for QatarEnergy's new supersize generation Q-Max vessels of 271,000 cbm. These were firmed up at Hudong-Zhonghua Shipbuilding (Group) in China. On top of these 35, Qatari LNG carrier owner Nakilat also contracted two vessels for its own account outside the QatarEnergy project. Greece's Capital Gas stands out as the single independent LNG carrier owner that managed to squeeze in among the Qatari crush to add another four newbuildings for its rapidly expanding fleet at HD Hyundai Samho Heavy Industries. Sea Jade Investment, Hong Kong owner Wah Kwong Maritime's joint venture with Chinese leasing

company CSSC (Hong Kong) Shipping and China Gas Holdings, also firmed up two optional LNG slots at China's Dalian Shipbuilding Industry against charters with a domestic utility. Japan's Mitsui OSK Lines was finally able to ink its fiercely fought time-charter contract with Poland's Gaz-System and firm up a rare newbuilding deal for a pricey \$363m FSRU. The start of 2024 also saw Canada's Cedar LNG giving Samsung Heavy Industries the green light to move forward with a \$1.5bn FLNG unit capable of producing 3.3 million tonnes per annum. This unit will feature a storage capacity of 250,000 cbm for LNG. Market players said the first-quarter tally looks strong but heavily skewed towards the Qatari business. They pointed out that the strong and holding firm prices, of around \$260m-plus, for a 174,000-cbm LNG workhorse have deterred the bulk of shipowners from signing up for uncommitted tonnage. In addition, commentators cited the US administration's pause on approvals for new liquefaction projects and the looming numbers of LNG carrier deliveries, which currently stand at close to 70 vessels this year and again in 2025. Despite this, brokers, LNG project developers and shipbuilders see enquiries for more LNG carriers to be ordered in 2024. Inbound They point to the ongoing tender by Adnoc Logistics & Services, business from US liquefaction projects, an incoming FSRU order and demand from named energy majors. On top of this, QatarEnergy is expected to proceed with a further 10 Q-Max newbuildings at Hudong-Zhonghua in China, which will likely see the first 2030 delivery date confirmed. TradeWinds has reported that Nakilat has been lined up to take two of these 271,000-cbm vessels, Shandong three, China LNG Shipping two and Cosco/MOL's joint venture three. Discussions are also said to be ongoing with Hanwha Ocean and possibly HD Hyundai Heavy Industries on Q-Max tonnage. Questions remain over 17 LNG carrier newbuilding berths being held for a quartet of owners at two South Korean yards for TotalEnergies' much-postponed Mozambique LNG project. Shipbuilders have extended these slots until the end of June. source : www.tradewindsnews.com

SINGAPORE SAFETY BLITZ DETAINS EXCELERATE FSRU

City-state has seen fewer detentions so far this year, but authorities remain on their guard. Singapore's clampdown on substandard shipping has snared another high-profile shipowner, the latest data from the Tokyo MoU shows. Excelerate Energy's 138,000-cbm floating storage and regasification unit Summit LNG (ex-Excelerate, built 2006) was detained in late March 2024. The Belgian-flagged LNG carrier was held for deficiencies related to pilot ladders and pilot transfer arrangements, international safety management and faulty weathertight conditions. Singapore inspectors also found issues with some of the vessel's fire dampers as well as fixed fire extinguishing systems, Tokyo MoU data showed. A spokesperson for US-listed Excelerate Energy declined to comment on the vessel's detention when contacted by TradeWinds. Singapore's Maritime & Port Authority is known to be having a wider campaign on life-saving equipment and appliances, one shipowner who had a vessel detained recently told TradeWinds. The detention of the Excelerate Energy gas carrier comes less than two months after tanker giant Euronav saw one of its VLCCs detained in the city. The 314,000-dwt Ingrid (built 2012) was stopped in late January after deficiencies were found related to ISM, fire safety and pilot transfer arrangements. However, a spokesperson for the US-listed shipowner said it was actively engaging with the MPA as it believed its interpretation of detainable items was "arguable".

The Ingrid is the third VLCC to be detained in Singapore since the summer of last year for port state control-related deficiencies, according to the Tokyo MoU. In June 2023, a modern Japanese-owned VLCC — the 314,000-dwt Tenma (built 2018) — was detained for ISM, fire safety and labour condition-related deficiencies. Then, in early December 2023, the 299,000-dwt tanker Inherit (built 2000), was detained with more than 20 deficiencies, four of which were said to warrant detention. Singapore saw a surge in tanker detentions during 2023 as PSC inspections were reinstated after Covid-19 and the frequency of inspections increased. The city-state detained a total of 84 vessels last year of which 39 were crude tankers or oil/chemical tankers, according to the Tokyo MoU. The increase in detentions came amid concerns over the threat posed to Asian waters by the so-called dark fleet — tankers in sanctioned oil trades, often underinsured and dubbed potential environmental hazards. Asian governments have been on edge following the explosion and fire aboard the 96,700-dwt Pablo (built 1997) in the South China Sea in May last year, close to the entrance of the Singapore Strait. However, detentions look set to decline this year, with Singapore only detaining 15 ships in the first three months of this year compared with 34 in the corresponding period in 2023. source : www.tradewindsnews.com

SOUTH KOREA'S KOGAS BOOSTS GAS SALES IN MARCH

South Korean LNG importer Kogas boosted its gas sales in March, the first monthly increase since August last year. State-owned Kogas sold 3.48 million mt last month, a rise of 10.9 percent compared to 3.14 million mt in March 2023, according to a stock exchange filing. March sales were almost flat compared to the previous month's 3.50 million mt. Purchases by power firms decreased by 2.7 percent year-on-year to 1.40 million mt in March. These purchases rose by 9.3 percent compared to the previous month. Moreover, Kogas said its city gas sales increased by 22.3 percent year-on-year to 2.08 million mt, while they dropped by 6 percent compared to the month before. Kogas reported declines in its monthly gas sales during September 2023–February 2024. In August last year, the company's gas sales rose just 0.8 percent year-on-year. Kogas sold 34.6 million mt during 2023, down from 38.3 million mt in 2022. The firm said in its earnings report in February that residential demand in 2023 decreased due to higher average temperature, while industrial demand dropped due to the economic recession. Kogas said total power generation decreased due to the economic recession and due to increase in power generation by direct LNG sourcing companies.

Korean LNG imports

Kogas operates 77 LNG storage tanks at five LNG import terminals in South Korea. The large terminals include Incheon, Pyeongtaek, Tongyeong, and Samcheok, while the firm has a small-scale regasification terminal at the Aewol port on Jeju island as well. Also, the firm is building a large terminal in Dangjin and expects to launch the first phase in December 2025. South Korea imported 44.1 million mt of LNG in 2023, down from 46.3 million mt in the year before, according to customs data. Official data for South Korean LNG imports in March is not yet available. South Korean LNG imports in January rose to

4.85 million mt from 4.78 million mt in January 2023, while LNG imports in February dropped to 4.20 million mt from 5.08 million mt in the same month last year, the customs data shows. source : www.lngprime.com

SPANISH LNG IMPORTS, RELOADS DIP IN MARCH

Spanish liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports and reloads decreased in March compared to the same month last year. Russia and the US were the biggest LNG suppliers to Spain in March, according to Enagas. LNG imports decreased by 39.7 percent year-on-year to about 18 TWh in March and accounted for 65.5 percent of the total gas imports. In February, LNG imports reached about 18.4 TWh and in January imports reached some 20 TWh. Including pipeline imports from Algeria (8.7 TWh), France, and Portugal, gas imports to Spain reached about 29.1 TWh last month, a drop from some 37.9 TWh in March last year, Enagas said in its monthly report. Moreover, national gas demand in March decreased by 6.6 percent year-on-year to some 26.8 TWh. Demand for power generation dipped by 25.4 percent year-on-year to about 4.76 TWh last month, while conventional demand decreased by 1.1 percent to 22 TWh, the LNG terminal operator said. Storage facilities were 81 percent full in March, compared to 78 percent in the same month last year and 79 percent in the prior month, according to Enagas. Enagas operates a large network of gas pipelines and has four LNG import plants in Barcelona, Huelva, Cartagena, and Gijon. It also owns 50 percent of the BBG regasification plant in Bilbao and 72.5 percent of the Sagunto plant, while Reganosa operates the Mugarodos plant. In August last year, Spanish power group Endesa delivered the first commercial cargo to the El Musel LNG terminal in Gijon. However, the facility has still not reloaded a cargo since the commercial launch, the Enagas data shows.

Russia and US biggest LNG suppliers

The seven operational Spanish LNG regasification terminals, unloaded 43 cargoes last month, down by six cargoes compared to March last year, the data shows. Russia was the biggest LNG supplier to Spain in March with about 7.48 TWh, up from 5.46 TWh last year, and the country was followed by the US with 5.28 TWh, a big drop compared to 11 TWh last year. US was the biggest LNG supplier to Spain in January and February, while Russia was the biggest LNG supplier in December. Prior to that, US was the biggest supplier to Spain in October and November. Besides Russia and the US, Spanish LNG terminals also received 3.5 TWh from Algeria in March, up from 2.87 TWh in the same month last year, and also 1 TWh from Belgium, 0.88 TWh from Nigeria, and 0.87 TWh from Qatar.

LNG reloads

Spanish LNG terminals loaded about 0.56 TWh in March, down 74.7 percent compared to some 2.23 TWh in the same month last year and also down compared to 1.07 TWh in February and 0.92 TWh in January. The Barcelona LNG terminal reloaded about 0.21 TWh of LNG, the Sagunto terminal reloaded about 0.19 TWh, and the Huelva terminal reloaded some 0.15 TWh. Moreover, the number of truck loads at the LNG terminals dropped by 8.3 percent year-on-year to 1048. The Barcelona LNG

terminal completed 215 truck loads in March, while the Cartagena terminal completed 204 truck loads and the Huelva terminal completed 190 truck loads, the data shows. source : www.lngprime.com

AUSTRALIA PACIFIC LNG TO SHIP 1000TH CARGO

Australia Pacific LNG, the operator of the 9 mtpa liquefied natural gas export facility on Curtis Island near Gladstone, said it will “very soon” ship its 1000th LNG cargo since it started operations in 2016. APLNG revealed this in a social media post on Thursday but it did not provide further information. “It’s a milestone worth celebrating, made possible by the thousands of people who worked with us to build the project and those who continue to work with us today,” it said. The APLNG export plant shipped its 500th cargo in June 2020. It will not be the first plant on Curtis Island to ship its 1000th cargo as the Shell-operated Queensland Curtis LNG export plant shipped its 1000th cargo since it started operations in May 2015 in December last year. Besides APLNG and QCLNG, Curtis Island is also home to the GLNG plant operated by Santos.

APLNG is a joint venture between US-based ConocoPhillips (47.5 percent), Australia’s Origin Energy (27.5 percent), and China’s Sinopec (25 percent) and shipped its first LNG cargo in January 2016 after nearly five years of development and construction. Origin operates APLNG’s gas fields, upstream exploration, production and pipeline system, while ConocoPhillips operates the downstream LNG export facility and the LNG export sales business. There are two export offtake agreements in place for the LNG produced by APLNG – 7.6 mtpa to JV partner Sinopec, and 1 mtpa to Japan’s Kansai Electric, both for 20 years. source : www.lngprime.com

TWO MORE LNG TERMINALS FOR CHINA

A private Chinese energy company is reported to be building two new LNG import facilities and a specialist pump for small-scale LNG is revealed. Private Chinese energy company to build two LNG import terminals One of China’s largest private energy companies, GCL Holdings, is reported to have sold its solar interests for US\$3.25Bn and is investing in two LNG import terminals in China and an LNG trading desk in Singapore. The report from Reuters details that one LNG import terminal is to be constructed in Rudong in Jiangsu province with a capacity of 3M tonnes of LNG a year. The facility will be a joint venture, 51% owned by GCL and 49% by independent oil and gas firm Pacific Energy. Pending state approval, GCL will hold a 43% stake in a similar facility at Maoming in Guangdong province. These will be in addition to stakes GCL already holds in 10 gas-fired power plants with a demand for 2Bn m³ of gas per annum. This demand, plus the development of two import terminals, has contributed to the formation of a gas trading desk in Singapore, led by Xiong Xin. In addition, GCL is looking to restart development of an LNG export facility in Ethiopia, plans for which were dropped in 2018. Under the abandoned plans, a 600,000-tonne per year liquefaction facility would export LNG to Europe and China.

Retractable small-scale LNG cargo pump revealed

A small-scale LNG cargo pump with flow rates from 70 m³ per hour up to 500 m³ per hour has been revealed by Vanzetti Engineering. Based on its ARTIKA Series, the ESK-IMO retractable pump is installed inside a column that is isolated from the rest of the tank by a foot valve with the LNG confined in the tank outside the column, allowing the pump to be removed for maintenance by opening a cover at the top of the column. Without the need to empty the LNG tank, the retractable pump is suitable for small-scale LNG tanks and terminals where the tank inspection regime might be twice as long as pump maintenance schedules. For small-scale LNG carriers, the pump is said to have the advantage of a low profile above the deck. source :

www.rivieramm.com

DEUTSCHE REGAS GETS OPERATING PERMIT FOR MUKRAN FSRU TERMINAL

German LNG terminal operator Deutsche ReGas has received an operating permit for its FSRU-based LNG import facility in Germany's port of Mukran. The "Deutsche Ostsee" terminal received its permit in accordance with Section 4 Federal Immission Control Act (BImSchG) and Section 17 Federal Water Act (WHG) from the State Agency for Agriculture and Environment (StALU) of Western Pomerania, according to a statement by Deutsche ReGas. Once fully commissioned, the LNG terminal will have a capacity of up to 13.5 billion cbm of gas annually to be fed into the EUGAL/OPAL and NEL gas pipeline networks. In this way, Deutsche ReGas is making an even greater contribution to the secure supply of gas to eastern Germany, its eastern European neighbors, and the industrial locations in southwest Germany, the firm led by Ingo Wagner and Stephan Knabe claims. "As a privately financed company, we have realized the development of our second terminal in eastern Germany at an impressive pace. This is the result of great cooperation with our local partners and with the wider energy sector," Wagner said. Knabe added that the Deutsche ReGas team "is once again making LNG history with this milestone." "Never before has a company brought to operations two LNG terminals at different locations within just two years," he said.

Two FSRUs

Last month, Deutsche ReGas received the first LNG tanker at its FSRU-based LNG import facility in Mukran as part of the commissioning phase. The 2015-built 161,870-cbm, Maran Gas Alexandria, owned by Greece's Maran Gas and Qatar's Nakilat, delivered the cargo from Equinor's Hammerfest LNG export plant in Norway to the 2021-built 174,000-cbm, Energos Power, in Mukran on the island of Rugen. In June last year, Deutsche ReGas signed a deal with the German government to sub-charter the FSRU delivered in 2021 by Hudong-Zhonghua and owned by US-based Energos Infrastructure. Deutsche ReGas took over the charter of Energos Power in October last year. Energos Power will work along the FSRU Neptune in Mukran as part of the second phase of the LNG terminal. Deutsche ReGas officially launched its Lubmin FSRU-based LNG import terminal, first private LNG terminal in Germany, in January last year. It chartered the 2009-built 145,000-cbm, FSRU

Neptune, from French energy giant TotalEnergies for this project. Deutsche ReGas recently said it expects Neptune to arrive in Mukran in the beginning of summer. source : www.lngprime.com

PETROVIETNAM GAS TO SUPPLY LNG TO EVN

PetroVietnam Gas, a unit of state-owned PetroVietnam, has signed a deal to supply liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Vietnam's power utility EVN. According to a statement by PV Gas, the operator of the Thi Vai LNG terminal signed a deal with EVN on March 29 to supply the latter with nearly 70,000 tons of LNG. This deal follows a government directive dated February 14 on ensuring electricity supply, and a sufficient amount of coal and gas for power generation. It will also support EVN during the peak dry season of 2024, PV Gas said. "The urgency of supplementing imported LNG for power generation clearly demonstrates the role and commitment of PV GAS in ensuring national energy security," it said. PV Gas said that the LNG volumes will be supplied to the Phu My 3 thermal power plant during April-May, making up for about 500 million kWh to the power system. The company said that the 145,700-cbm LNG carrier, Al Jassasiya, will deliver on Thursday about 70,000 tons of LNG from Qatar's giant LNG complex in Ras Laffan to its Thi Vai LNG terminal in Vietnam. Last month, PetroVietnam Gas signed a deal with QatarEnergy LNG, previously known as Qatargas, to buy 70,000 tons of LNG for delivery on April 12-13. The shipment is the first for the Thi Vai LNG terminal this year. PetroVietnam Gas officially launched its Thi Vai LNG terminal in the coastal area southeast of Ho Chi Minh City on October 29 after nearly 4 years of construction and commissioning. In July 2023, LNG giant Shell delivered the commissioning LNG cargo to the terminal from Indonesia's Bontang LNG plant. PetroVietnam Gas also recently started supplying LNG via trucks from its Thi Vai LNG import terminal to industrial customers. The Thi Vai LNG import facility consists of one 180,000-cbm LNG tank, a jetty, and regas area. The terminal has a capacity of 1 mtpa in its first phase, but PetroVietnam Gas plans to boost the capacity to 3 mtpa in the next stage. source : www.lngprime.com

ITALY'S PIOMBINO FSRU GETS FIRST CARGO FROM ENI'S CONGO LNG PROJECT

Snam's Piombino FSRU-based terminal in Italy has received the first liquefied natural gas cargo produced at Eni's Tango floating LNG facility in Congo, according to shipping data. The 2010-built 155,000-cbm LNG carrier, GasLog Savannah, was on Tuesday morning local time located at the 170,000-cbm Golar Tundra in the port of Piombino, its AIS data provided by VesselsValue shows. Eni said on February 27 that it was loading the first LNG cargo in the Republic of Congo, also known as Congo-Brazzaville, and that it will deliver the shipment to the Piombino FSRU-based terminal. LNG Prime reported on March 13 that GasLog Savannah was located in the Alboran Sea off Spain and heading towards Italy. However, the LNG carrier changed course and was anchored offshore Gibraltar the day after. Since then, GasLog Savannah has been circling in

the Mediterranean Sea and it finally arrived in Piombino on Monday, the data shows. LNG Prime previously contacted Eni to comment on the arrival of the LNG carrier in Piombino but we did not receive a reply.

Tango FLNG

Eni introduced the first gas in December 2023 into its Tango FLNG facility. Prior to that, the unit arrived in Congo from Dubai. The Italian firm purchased the 144 meters long Tango FLNG from Belgium's Exmar and it also chartered the 2002-built 138,000-cbm steam turbine LNG carrier, Excalibur, to serve as an FSU for the project. Moreover, the floating LNG producer, delivered in 2017 by China's Wison, has a liquefaction capacity of about 1 billion cubic meters per year of gas, or 0.6 mtpa, and a storage capacity of 16,100 cbm. Eni said the FLNG project, situated within the Marine XII permit, will achieve a plateau gas liquefaction capacity of about 4.5 billion cubic meters per annum and will mark zero flaring from operated activities in country. Also, a second FLNG vessel with a capacity of about 3.5 bcm per year of gas, or 2.4 mtpa, is under construction in China and is expected to begin production in 2025. Wison Offshore & Marine won a contract from Eni in December 2022 to build the 380 meters long FLNG. The unit will be able to store over 180,000 cubic meters of LNG. The volumes produced from the FLNG project will be marketed by Eni, strengthening and expanding the company's LNG portfolio. source : www.lngprime.com

JAPAN'S JOGMEC PUBLISHES SPOT LNG PRICE FOR FIRST TIME IN 2024

State-run Japan Organization for Metals and Energy Security (JOGMEC) has published the first contract-based monthly spot LNG price since October 2023. "The average price of spot LNG cargoes for delivery to Japan contracted in March 2024 and scheduled to be delivered from the month onward (contract-based price) was \$9.3/MBtu," JOGMEC said on Tuesday in its preliminary report. The average price of spot LNG cargoes that were delivered in Japan within the month of March regardless of the month when the contracts were made (arrival-based price) was not disclosed. JOGMEC did not publish both the contract-based and the arrival-based monthly spot LNG prices in the first two months of this year as there were less than two companies that imported spot LNG. Also, JOGMEC excludes LNG cargoes if spot LNG prices are linked to other indices, such as Henry Hub or JKM. The contract-based price in October 2023 was \$14.7/MMBtu, while JOGMEC last time published the arrival-based price in December last year and it was at 16.9/MMBtu.

Inventory injections

JOGMEC said in a separate report on Monday that JKM, the price for LNG cargoes delivered to Northeast Asia, for the previous week (April 1 - April 5) "remained unchanged at mid-\$9s on April 5 from mid-\$9s the previous weekend." "The price trended lower mid-week on the back of weak demand in major LNG consuming countries in Asia, but the decline was offset over the weekend by active trading due to demand for inventory injections, especially in Japan," it said. METI announced on April 3 that Japan's LNG inventories for power generation as of March 31 stood at 1.48 million tonnes, a drop of 0.04 million

tonnes from the previous week, down 0.85 million tonnes from the end of the same month last year, and down 0.66 million tonnes from the average of the past five years. Japan's is the world's second-largest LNG importer after China. Official data for Japan's March LNG imports are not yet available. Japan's LNG imports dropped for the second month in a row in February. The country's LNG imports decreased by 5.9 percent year-on-year in February to 6.02 million tonnes, according to the data released by the country's Ministry of Finance. LNG imports dropped slightly compared to 6.1 million tonnes in the previous month, which also marked a decrease year-on-year. source : www.lngprime.com

CHINA'S DAPENG LNG TERMINAL BOOSTS GAS DELIVERIES IN Q1

China's Guangdong Dapeng LNG import terminal has increased its deliveries of natural gas to downstream customers in the first quarter of this year compared to the same period last year, according to CNOOC Gas & Power, a unit of China's CNOOC. During the January-March period, the GDLNG terminal has supplied a total of 2.1 million tons of regasified LNG to the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area, an increase of 6 percent over the same period last year, CNOOC Gas & Power said in a statement. The facility has achieved year-on-year growth in the first quarter for the fourth consecutive year, it said. Since March, the temperature in Guangdong has been rising, and many cities and municipalities have seen record high temperatures for this period of the year, and the demand for electricity and gas for regional residents and industrial and commercial use has increased accordingly, CNOOC Gas & Power said. The LNG terminal delivered 820,000 tons of regasified LNG in March, a record high for the same period in its history, it said. Last year, the GDLNG terminal hit a milestone with supplying over 100 million metric tons to downstream gas customers in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area since its launch in 2006. China's first LNG import terminal has a design capacity of 6.8 million tons per year. The facility features four 160,000-cbm LNG tanks and also a truck loading station. According to data by GIIGNL, CNOOC owns 33 percent in GDLNG, the province of Guangdong 30 percent, BP 30 percent, HK & China Gas 3 percent, and Hong Kong Electric 3 percent. In 2021, BP started to directly supply customers in China with regasified LNG from the LNG terminal in Shenzhen. With this, BP has created a fully integrated gas value chain into China, directly connecting upstream resources, transportation, and trading with downstream gas customers. The energy firm has 600,000 tons a year tolling regasification capacity at GDLNG. BP China and CNOOC Gas & Power previously said that GDLNG's cumulative gas supply volume accounts for about 40 percent of the gas consumption in Guangdong province and also about 30 percent of the gas consumption in Hong Kong. Last year, Hong Kong's first FSRU-based LNG import facility, owned by a joint venture of CLP Power and HK Electric, also started commercial operations. MOL's 263,000-cbm FSRU *Bauhinia Spirit*, the world's largest FSRU, serves this facility. source : www.lngprime.com

TOTAL ENERGIES PUSHES BACK PAPUA LNG FID TO 2025

French energy giant TotalEnergies and its partners have postponed a final investment decision on the planned Papua LNG export project in Papua New Guinea. This was revealed during a meeting between Patrick Pouyanne, chairman and CEO of TotalEnergies, and James Marape, the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, according to a statement by TotalEnergies. Pouyanne reaffirmed that TotalEnergies, operator of the project, and its international partners ExxonMobil, Santos, JX Nippon, are “fully committed” to Papua LNG. “In particular, he shared the high interest of several LNG buyers for off-taking LNG from Papua LNG due to its strategic location close to key Asian markets,” he said. Pouyanne also said that, after receiving first EPC offers, it appears that the project “will need to keep working with contractors to obtain commercially viable EPC contracts and requires more work to reach FID.” “In that view, the project will review the structure of some packages and open the competition to an enlarged panel of Asian contractors. As a consequence, FID of Papua LNG project is now expected in 2025,” the statement said. Pouyanne and Marape “agreed that this slight delay will not affect the early works planned in Papua New Guinea in 2024 and that the project will maintain its full support to local population of Gulf Province,” the statement said. Moreover, Pouyanne announced that TotalEnergies intends to drill the first deepwater exploration well on the PPL 576 license in 2025.

Papua LNG

In March 2023, the Papua LNG partners launched fully-integrated front-end engineering and design (FEED) for the project, while TotalEnergies sold a small stake in the project to Japan’s JX Nippon Oil & Gas Exploration in June. Pouyanne said in September last year the project partners could take a final investment decision on the project “by the end of this year or beginning of the next year.” A spokesperson for France’s Credit Agricole recently confirmed to LNG Prime that the group will not finance Papua LNG or Rovuma LNG. “Credit Agricole does not finance any new fossil fuel extraction projects as disclosed last December during its second climate workshop,” the spokesperson said. TotalEnergies has a 37.55 percent operating stake in the Papua LNG project, ExxonMobil has 37.04 percent, Santos owns a 22.83 percent interest, and JX Nippon holds 2.58 percent. The project calls for the design of about 4 million tonnes per year of liquefaction capacity adjacent to the existing PNG LNG processing facilities, operated by ExxonMobil and located 20 kilometers northwest of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. The facility will receive supplies from the Elk-Antelope gas field. Also, the project includes the use of 2 million tonnes per year of liquefaction capacity in the existing trains of PNG LNG. Source : www.lngprime.com

SEFE REJECTS GAIL’S \$1.81 BILLION CLAIM OVER LNG SUPPLIES

SEFE Marketing & Trading Singapore, previously known as Gazprom Marketing and Trading Singapore, has rejected GAIL’s \$1.81 billion claim over undelivered LNG volumes. India’s largest gas utility GAIL said in a filing to the stock exchange that SEFE Marketing & Trading Singapore (SM&TS) has filed its statement of defence on April 2, 2024. “SM&TS denies that it

owes anything other than an alleged contractually limited sum properly evidenced and subject to SM&TS’ defences,” GAIL said. GAIL announced in December it launched an arbitration process in the hope of securing up to \$1.81 billion in compensation from SM&TS over undelivered LNG volumes. GAIL said the dispute is related to “non-supply of LNG cargoes to GAIL under long-term LNG contract.” The state-owned firm filed the claim in the London Court of International Arbitration on November 30. It is seeking “up to \$1.817 billion and alternative reliefs including non-monetary reliefs.” GAIL previously said that SEFE stopped supplying LNG in May 2022 and that the deliveries resumed in May last year with about four LNG cargoes per month. This means that SEFE did not supply up to 48 LNG cargoes to GAIL during the period. In 2012, the Indian firm and Gazprom’s unit signed the sales and purchase deal for 2.5 mtpa of LNG. The contract started in 2018 and ends in 2041, according to GIIGNL data. However, the German government took over Securing Energy for Europe (SEFE), previously Gazprom Germania, in November 2022 saying the move is necessary to protect its energy security due to Russia’s ongoing war in Ukraine. Prior to that, the management of SEFE applied to the German government for stabilization measures. This request was necessary as Russian sanctions against SEFE were leading to the suspension of gas deliveries, SEFE said. source : www.lngprime.com

PETROVIETNAM POWER GETS \$300 MILLION LOAN FOR LNG POWER PLANTS

PetroVietnam Power, a unit of state-owned PetroVietnam, has signed a deal with Citibank and ING for a \$300 million short-term loan to fund the construction of its Nhon Trach 3 and 4 LNG power plants. PV Power said in a statement that the deal was signed during a ceremony held on April 4. In addition to the short-term loan, PV Power said it is also working with Citibank and ING to arrange a long-term loan worth up to \$600 million to finance the Nhon Trach 3 and 4 power plants. PV Power said this is the first LNG power project in Vietnam with strategic importance in ensuring national energy security. The firm previously said it expects the Nhon Trach 3 power plant to launch operations in November 2024, while the Nhon Trach 4 power plant is expected to start operations in May 2025. PetroVietnam Power said in November 2021 it broke ground on the two LNG power plants in the southern province of Dong Nai worth about \$1.4 billion. The Nhon Trach 3 and 4 plants will have a total capacity of 1,500 megawatt (MW). South Korea’s Samsung C&T secured a contract from PetroVietnam Power to build the plants as part of a consortium with Vietnamese contractor Lilama.

Thi Vai LNG terminal

Samsung C&T also built the Thi Vai LNG terminal, owned by PetroVietnam Gas, in the coastal area southeast of Ho Chi Minh City. PetroVietnam Gas officially launched its Thi Vai LNG terminal, first such facility in Vietnam, on October 29, 2023 after nearly 4 years of construction and commissioning. In July 2023, LNG giant Shell delivered the commissioning LNG cargo to the terminal from Indonesia’s Bontang LNG plant. PetroVietnam Gas also recently started supplying LNG via trucks from its Thi Vai LNG import terminal to industrial customers. The Thi Vai LNG import facility consists of one 180,000-cbm LNG tank,

a jetty, and regas area. The terminal has a capacity of 1 mtpa in its first phase, but PetroVietnam Gas plans to boost the capacity to 3 mtpa in the next stage. source : www.lngprime.com

TOTAL ENERGIES EXPANDS ITS US NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION

France's TotalEnergies has agreed to buy the 20 percent interest held by Lewis Energy in the Dorado leases operated by EOG Resources in the Eagle Ford shale play, increasing its natural gas production capacity in Texas and further strengthening its business integration in the US LNG value chain. Located in Texas, the Dorado field will allow TotalEnergies to increase its net US natural gas production by 50 million cubic feet a day (Mcf/d) in 2024, with the potential for an additional 50 Mcf/d by 2028, it said in a statement. According to TotalEnergies, the field has an emission intensity of around 10 kg CO₂e/boe. In 2023, TotalEnergies' net US natural gas output reached around 340 Mcf/d (450 Mcf/d technical production).

Largest exporter of US LNG

With over 10 million tons (Mt) in 2023, TotalEnergies was the number one exporter of US LNG, thanks to its 16.6 percent stake in the Sempra infrastructure-operated Cameron LNG plant in Louisiana and several long-term purchasing agreements, the firm claims. Moreover, the company's LNG export capacity will reach 15 Mt/y by 2030 following the start-up of the first phase of NextDecade's Rio Grande LNG project in Texas, currently under construction. "This acquisition strengthens our production of natural gas in the United States, contributing to reinforce TotalEnergies' LNG integration with a low cost and low emission upstream gas feed," said **Nicolas Terraz**, president, exploration and production at TotalEnergies. Source : www.lngprime.com

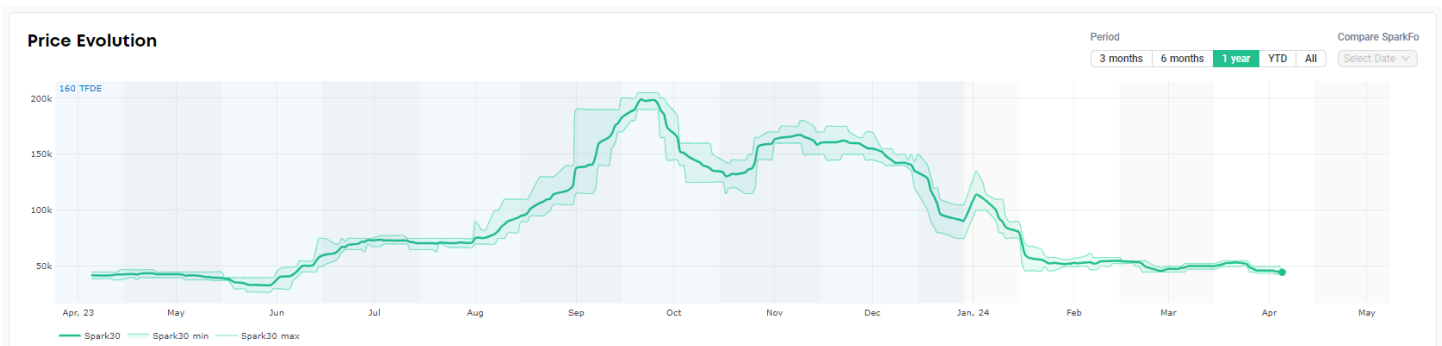
BAKER HUGHES TO SUPPLY LIQUEFACTION TECH FOR CANADA'S CEDAR LNG PROJECT

US energy services firm Baker Hughes has secured an order from compatriot engineer Black & Veatch to supply the planned Cedar LNG project in Canada with electric driven liquefaction technologies. Baker Hughes said in a statement the award was booked in the first quarter of 2024, but it did not reveal the price tag of the contract. Under the contract, Baker Hughes will supply a range of turbomachinery equipment, including four electric-driven main refrigeration compressors, two electric-driven boil-off gas compressors, and six centrifugal pumps. The award continues the positive demand momentum for Baker Hughes' gas technology equipment portfolio following several major LNG orders throughout the past year, the firm said. Baker Hughes booked record \$5.6 billion of LNG equipment orders in 2023. The company said the outlook for LNG FIDs over the next few years "remains strong". On the other hand, Canada's Pembina Pipeline and the Haisla Nation recently issued a notice to proceed to Samsung Heavy Industries and Black & Veatch for Cedar LNG's floating LNG production unit following the finalization of long-term commercial offtake agreements. Cedar LNG signed a 20-year take-or-pay fixed toll contract with compatriot ARC

Resources for 1.5 mtpa. Pembina and the Haisla Nation each own 50 percent in the Cedar LNG project. The total project cost, including \$0.6 billion of interest during construction and transaction costs, is expected to be about \$4 billion, according to Pembina. The partners expect to take a final investment decision on the project by the middle of 2024. Source : www.lngprime.com

SPOT LNG SHIPPING RATES, EUROPEAN PRICES DROP THIS WEEK

Spot charter rates for the global liquefied natural gas (LNG) carrier fleet decreased further this week, and European prices dropped for the first time in six weeks. Last week, spot charter rates dropped below \$50,000 per day. “Freight rates in the Atlantic and Pacific basins continue to fall for the second consecutive week, with the Spark30S Atlantic spot rate falling by \$1,750 per day to \$44,750 per day, and the Spark25S Pacific rate falling by \$1,500/day to \$47,000 per day,” **Qasim Afghan**, Spark’s commercial analyst told LNG Prime on Friday.

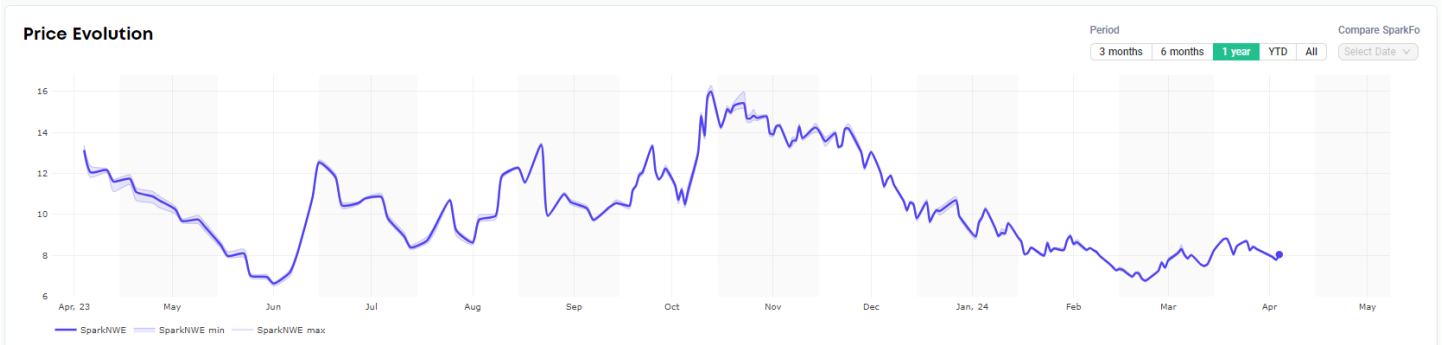


“For this time of the year, the Spark30S Atlantic spot rate is at its lowest point since 2021,” he said.

LNG freight rates remain low despite the fact that LNG carriers are still avoiding the Suez Canal due to the situation in the Red Sea and the lower LNG transits in the Panama Canal due to a drought situation.

European prices drop

In Europe, the SparkNWE DES LNG front month dropped compared to the last week. “The SparkNWE DES LNG front month price for April delivery is assessed at \$8.047/MMBtu and at a \$0.300/MMBtu discount to the TTF,” Afghan said. He said this is a \$0.277/MMBtu decrease in DES LNG price, the first weekly decrease in SparkNWE DES LNG price in six weeks.



Levels of gas in storages in Europe are very high following a mild winter. Data by Gas Infrastructure Europe (GIE) shows that volumes in gas storages in the EU rose and they were 59.44 percent full on April 3. Gas storages were 58.81 percent full on March 27, and 55.87 percent full on April 3 last year. The EU-27 ended the winter with record-high stocks in gas storages.

US LNG exports and Asian LNG prices up

US LNG exports rose in the week ending April 3 compared to the week before while the Freeport LNG terminal in Texas still operates with only one train. The LNG terminal operator told LNG Prime last month that its third train is currently online and producing LNG, while the “train 2 liquefaction unit is now offline and our train 1 liquefaction unit will be taken down imminently.” This week, JKM, the price for LNG cargoes delivered to Northeast Asia, rose slightly when compared to the last week, according to Platts data. JKM for May settled at \$9.545/MMBtu on Thursday. State-run Japan Organization for Metals and Energy Security (JOGMEC) said in a report earlier this week that the JKM “increased to mid-\$9s on March 28 from low-\$9s the previous weekend.” “In a bear market, there has been no significant movement, but the market is slowly rising after bottoming out at the end of February,” it said. Japan’s METI recently said that Japan’s LNG inventories for power generation as of March 31 stood at 1.48 million tonnes, down 0.4 million tonnes from the previous week. Kpler said this week that March LNG imports rose in Asia and declined in Europe, with price-sensitive Asian buyers returning to the market.

Asian LNG imports hit 24.29 million mt, with China leading at 6.62 million mt, seeking cheaper spot LNG cargoes, it said.

In contrast, Europe’s LNG imports fell to 9.12 million mt, the lowest since September 2023, attributed to warmer weather and high gas reserves, Kpler said.

LNG futures traded volumes jump

“The JKM LNG futures and JKM LNG balance-month next-day futures traded volumes cleared on the ICE in Q1 totaled 247,898 lots, equivalent to approximately 47.67 million mt, or 751 cargoes. This is the highest since Q3 2021, when it recorded 284,352 lots,” Platts said in a report earlier this week. In the physical market, Japan-Korea-Taiwan-China, or JKTC, imported about 56.39 million mt, or 888 cargoes, in Q1, according to data by S&P Global Commodity Insights.

Meanwhile, the traded volumes cleared in March totaled 82,542 lots, down 10.07 percent on the month, but up 58.32 percent on the year. This is equivalent to about 15.87 million mt, or 250 cargoes, it said. JKM rose on the month, averaging \$9.152/MMBtu in March, compared with \$8.756/MMBtu in February, Platts said. source : www.lngprime.com

DISCLAIMER: The news, opinions, reports, updates and data or views contained on the Reports page may not represent the opinions or views of CYGNUS ENERGY, ITS OWNERS, ITS employees or its agents or affiliates. CYGNUS ENERGY makes no representation, warranty or guarantee as to the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in any News, Research, Analysis or Opinion provided by this service. The information has been taken and credited and cited to the sources as per the citation given in the report/newsletter herein. Under no circumstances will CYGNUS ENERGY, its owners, employees, agents or affiliates be held liable by any person or entity or institution or company for decisions made or actions taken by any person or entity that relies upon the information provided here. While every care has been taken to ensure that the information in this publication is accurate, CYGNUS ENERGY, can accept no responsibility for any errors or omissions or any consequences arising therefrom. Figures are based on latest available information, which is subject to subsequent revision and correction. The views expressed are those of CYGNUS ENERGY and do not necessarily reflect the views of any other associated company.

NEWS AND SOURCE: LNGWORLDNEWS, LNG INDUSTRY, NATURAL GAS WORLD, LNG JOURNAL, RIVIERAMM, THE HINDU BUSINESS, ARGUS MEDIA, PETROWATCH, REUTERS, IGU LNG REPORT, TRADEWINDS, MONEYCONTROL, LNG JOURNAL, RIVIERAMM, LNG JOURNAL

CYGNUS ENERGY

GAS & OIL

**LEVEL 43/44, CHAMPION TOWER,
3 GARDEN ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG
SANDP@CYGNUS-ENERGY.COM (SALE & PURCHASE)
GAS@CYGNUS-ENERGY.COM (GAS PROJECTS)**