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RUSSIA'S NOVATEK EYES ITS OWN SHIPYARD TO TACKLE LNG CARRIER DELIVERY DELAYS

Northern Engineering was registered by a Russian gas producer last month Gary Dixon Russian gas giant Novatek has set up a new company to build its own ships and floating production units. Reuters and Tass reported a new entry by the group in the state's registry of authorised companies. H-Line gas carrier lined up to export first LNG cargo from Golden Pass Ilya Lushchikov, head of Novatek's Murmansk LNG project, is in charge of the new company, called Severny Inzhiniring, or Northern Engineering. This was established on 25 March in an apparent bid to tackle a shortage of LNG carriers amid delays at Russia's Zvezda Shipbuilding Complex. Novatek has not commented. Western sanctions imposed in 2022 have limited deliveries of new specialised ships to the company. Novatek, which owns 60% of the Arctic LNG 2 project, has said 15 Arc7 ice-class tankers will eventually be built at Zvezda. But only one has so far been delivered. Northern Engineering's main business is given in the registry as the building of vessels and floating units. Other activities may include producing refrigeration equipment, design work, consulting and engineering surveys. Sanctioned state-owned Russian shipping company Sovcomflot took delivery of the first Zvezda LNG carrier in December. Interfax cited Sovcomflot chief executive Igor Tonkovidov as saying the 172,600-cbm Alexey Kosygin was handed over from Zvezda to export gas from the Arctic LNG 2 plant. Two more new ships are planned to enter service this year, Tonkovidov said. LNG carriers heading for Strait of Hormuz exit appear to turn around The first vessel was originally due in 2024. The Alexey Kosygin, named after a Soviet-era statesman, carried out final sea trials last summer. The ship is already on the US sanctions list. The international sanctions over Russia's invasion of Ukraine led to a shortage of gas ships able to move through ice. This has hampered Arctic LNG 2's exports since the first stage of the project began operations at the end of 2023.

Source: www.tradewindsnews.com

ANGOLA'S SONANGOL ORDERS TWO MORE LNG CARRIERS IN SOUTH KOREA

Angola's state-owned energy firm Sonangol has ordered two more liquefied natural gas (LNG) carriers from South Korea's HD Hyundai Samho Heavy Industries. HD Hyundai Samho's parent HD Korea Shipbuilding & Offshore Engineering said on Wednesday that the shipbuilder will build the vessels for Sonangol Shipping Holding. Moreover, the delivery of the LNG carriers is expected to be completed by September 2029. HD KSOE said the contract is worth 770.2 billion won (\$511 million), or approximately \$255.5 million per vessel. The group did not reveal further details. Earlier this year, HD KSOE said that HD Hyundai Samho will build one LNG carrier for Sonangol for approximately \$251 million. The delivery of this LNG carrier is expected to be completed by June 2028. In September 2025, LNG Prime reported, citing shipbuilding sources, that Sonangol was looking to order one firm and two optional vessels from South Korean and Chinese yards. Sonangol has a stake in Angola LNG. Angola LNG is a joint venture of Chevron, Azule Energy, a joint venture of BP, Eni, Sonangol, and TotalEnergies. In 2023, Angola LNG shipped its 400th cargo of LNG since the launch of the 5.2 mtpa Soyo plant in 2013. A fleet of seven 160,000-cbm LNG vessels has been chartered on a long-term basis to transport Angola LNG cargoes to customers around the world. Source: www.lngprime.com

WORK CONTINUES TO PROGRESS ON CEDAR FLNG

South Korea's Samsung Heavy Industries continues to progress the construction of Cedar LNG's floating LNG production unit, which will be installed in Kitimat, on Canada's West Coast. Pembina expects the unit to arrive in Kitimat in the first half of 2028. The \$4 billion Cedar LNG project remains on time and on budget, with an expected in-service date in late 2028, Pembina's management said in a business update on Tuesday. The Haisla Nation has a 50.1 percent stake while Pembina owns 49.9 percent in the project which includes the construction of a floating LNG facility with a nameplate capacity of 3.3 mtpa, located in the traditional territory of the Haisla Nation.

In June last year, South Korea's Samsung Heavy Industries officially started building Cedar's FLNG, which will be named "megúgu". Cedar LNG issued a notice to proceed to Samsung Heavy and Black & Veatch for its FLNG following the finalization of long-term commercial offtake agreements. Samsung Heavy is responsible for the hull of the FLNG and topside plant processes, while Black & Veatch will provide its PRICO technology. Pembina's chief operating officer, Jaret Sprott, said 2026 is the "highest spend year for the project as we plan to reach several key milestones with our EPC and onshore teams." Additionally, inception to date, the project is approximately 50 percent spent and approximately 80 percent committed while still on time and on budget," he said. He said the FLNG in South Korea will move from the dry dock to the wet dock in the middle of this year. It will set sail from South Korea and arrive in Kitimat in the first half of 2028. Sprott also noted that the actual onshore footprint of the project is "quite small" given the floating nature of the project. The marine terminal facilities are currently under construction, and the mechanical completion of the marine terminal is expected at the end of 2027. Source:

www.lngprime.com

PETROVIETNAM GAS BOOSTS THI VAI REGAS CAPACITY

PetroVietnam Gas, a unit of state-owned PetroVietnam, has increased regasification capacity at its Thi Vai LNG import terminal. Against the backdrop of a volatile global energy market due to the geopolitical situation in the Middle East, PV Gas has completed the expansion of regasification capacity at the Thi Vai LNG Terminal to 288 tons per hour, the company announced in a statement on Tuesday. PV Gas said this strengthens gas supply readiness for power generation during the peak dry season. On April 2, a unit of PV Gas completed the test run to increase the regasification capacity of the Thi Vai LNG Terminal, following implementation phases on March 18-19 and April 1-2. PV Gas said the test results confirmed that the system maintains safe and stable operations at a rate of 288 tons per hour, compared to the initial design capacity of 171 tons per hour, equivalent to approximately 9.5 million standard cubic meters per day. It did not provide further information regarding the capacity increase. The company previously said that it is working to increase capacity at its 1 mtpa Thi Vai LNG terminal to approximately 3 mtpa. Launched in 2023, Vietnam's first LNG import facility comprises one 180,000-cbm LNG tank, a jetty, and a regasification area. The facility supplies natural gas to PetroVietnam Power's Nhon Trach 3 and 4 LNG power plants. PV Power launched commercial operations at its LNG power plants in December last year. Vietnam's first LNG power plants have a total capacity of 1.6 GW. In addition, PV Gas recently signed an addendum to a long-term LNG sales contract with PV Power, also a PetroVietnam subsidiary, to supply fuel for Nhon Trach 3 and 4 power plants. PV Gas also signed a framework agreement with compatriot power utility EVN to supply gas to the latter's Quang Trach II and III LNG power plants. According to PV Gas, the supply of regasified LNG to these plants would come from its planned North Central LNG terminal project, which will be located in the Vung Ang Economic

Zone. Source: www.lngprime.com

infrastructure will house key facilities such as the main process area, a jetty for the FSRU, and pipelines that will deliver natural gas into the national grid, SLNG said. As per the FSRU, South Korea's Hanwha Ocean officially began construction of MOL's 240,000-cbm, which will serve Singapore's second LNG import project, in October last year. SLNG will charter the unit under a deal it signed with Japan's MOL in October 2024. Source: www.lngprime.com

CHEVRON SAYS WHEATSTONE LNG PLANT OPERATING AT 50 PERCENT CAPACITY

Chevron's Wheatstone LNG facility near Onslow in Western Australia is now operating at 50 percent capacity, while repairs continue on the second liquefaction train, a Chevron Australia spokesperson told LNG Prime on Thursday. Chevron Australia said on March 29 that the restart of the two-train Wheatstone LNG plant is likely to take a "number of weeks" before production returns to full rates due to damaged equipment following a powerful tropical cyclone in Western Australia. "Chevron Australia continues work to safely restore production at the Wheatstone gas facility, with domestic gas supply fully resumed and liquified natural gas (LNG) production returning progressively," the Chevron Australia spokesperson said in an update. Following safe and successful startup activities over the Easter weekend, domestic gas supply to Western Australian customers has resumed and is operating at full capacity, according to the spokesperson. The spokesperson said that LNG production at Wheatstone has increased steadily as repair works are completed, including the replacement of several hundred air-cooled heat exchangers, known as fin fans. "The fin fans experienced the most damage from the passing of Tropical Cyclone Narelle last month," the spokesperson said. "LNG production is now at 50 percent capacity after one of Wheatstone's two LNG production trains began operating at full rates overnight," the spokesperson said. "Repairs continue on the second production train. We will continue to update stakeholders as repair and restart activities progress," the spokesperson added. Last year, the Chevron-operated Wheatstone LNG plant shipped its 1000th cargo of LNG since 2017. The foundation project consists of two LNG trains with a combined capacity of 8.9 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) and the domestic gas plant. Source: www.lngprime.com

ELENGER TO RECEIVE FIVE LNG CARGOES VIA FINLAND AND LITHUANIA

Elenger, a unit of Estonian investment firm Infortar, will receive five liquefied natural gas (LNG) cargoes via Finnish and Lithuanian FSRU-based facilities this spring as part of its preparations for the next heating season. The company, previously known as Eesti Gaas, said in a statement last week that the first LNG cargo was scheduled to arrive at the port of Inkoo from the US last Friday on board the LNG carrier Marvel Swallow. The 174,000-cbm LNG carrier, owned by MOL and chartered by Mitsui & Co, delivered the cargo to Excelerate Energy's 150,900-cbm FSRU Exemplar, which serves Gasgrid's import facility in Inkoo under a charter deal, delivered the cargo from Semptra Infrastructure's Cameron LNG export plant in Louisiana, according to its AIS data provided by VesselsValue. Elenger previously delivered several LNG cargoes to the Finnish FSRU, as well as to the 170,000-cbm FSRU Independence in Lithuania's Klaipeda. The company said that the next of these five LNG deliveries is planned to arrive in Klaipeda in the second half of April. In total, three LNG cargoes will arrive in Inkoo and two in Klaipeda during the spring months, with additional deliveries planned for autumn, according to Elenger. "We are beginning procurement for the next heating season and the filling of the underground gas storage facility in Latvia. Although the conflict in the Middle East has pushed up gas and oil prices, gas availability remains securely ensured, and all deliveries are proceeding as usual and without disruption," said Margus Kaasik, chairman of the management board of Elenger Group.

QatarEnergy recently announced that it expects the damage to its 77 mtpa Ras Laffan LNG complex caused by missile strikes to cost about \$20 billion a year in lost revenue and to take up to five years to repair, impacting supply to markets in Europe and Asia. The firm said that it will be compelled to declare force majeure for up to five years on some long-term LNG contracts as two liquefaction trains were damaged during the attacks. QatarEnergy stopped producing LNG at its giant Ras Laffan complex on March 2 due to military attacks on its operating facilities. The LNG producer declared force majeure to its affected LNG buyers on March 4. Wood Mackenzie assumes that if QatarEnergy began restarting Ras Laffan at the start of May, it would take all the way to the end of August for the 12 trains to return to full service. A restart of just the 41 mtpa North site would take just over a month. It would be the South site which takes through to the end of the summer to restart,” Wood Mackenzie said. It is the South site which originally had a 36 mtpa capacity that have sustained damage. These two additional trains will not return to service for a number of years and reduce the site’s capacity to 24 mtpa, it said. Wood Mackenzie assumes the Adnoc’s 5 mtpa Das Island LNG plant in the UAE will be able to return to service “fairly quickly.” Outside LNG, domestic gas infrastructure in the UAE has been harder hit than oil, and that recovery process could require longer-term repair work,” Marzec-Manser added. “Sustained disruption at Habshan would have wide-ranging implications for domestic gas availability, compelling the UAE to reduce reinjection volumes or increase piped imports via the Dolphin pipeline,” he said. Source: www.Ingprime.com

GTT SCORES ONSHORE LNG TANK GIG IN CHINA

French LNG containment giant GTT has secured an order to design a 10,000-cbm onshore LNG tank to be built at the Yangjiawan LNG liquefaction plant in Yan’an city in China’s northern Shanxi province. GTT said in a statement on Wednesday that it has won the order from Beijing Petrochemical Engineering, in cooperation with Shaanxi Yanchang Petroleum & Natural Gas. For the first time, GTT’s membrane technology will be deployed alongside an onshore LNG liquefaction plant, according to the firm. This configuration represents a “significant step forward for small-scale LNG infrastructure, which requires optimized energy performance due to the limited land footprint,” GTT said. The tank will be equipped with GTT’s GST membrane full containment technology, providing an “effective and adapted response to these constraints.” GTT said this technology features optimized insulation, achieving thermal performance up to twice that of conventional onshore tanks. In addition, an integrated monitoring system enhances storage safety, the firm said. Delivery of the tank is scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2027. GTT did not provide further details. GTT boosting onshore LNG tank business in China In March last year, GTT and Beijing Petrochemical Engineering (BPE) signed a deal to cooperate on onshore membrane LNG tanks. GTT’s unit in China said at the time that the two firms would engage in comprehensive cooperation around the technology of onshore membrane full containment tanks, including technology research and development, engineering applications, and market promotion. BPE has experience in natural gas liquefaction, peak shaving station construction and other fields, and has undertaken multiple national projects including LNG projects owned by Shaanxi Yanchang Petroleum (Group). GTT is mainly providing LNG tanks for LNG carriers, LNG fueled-vessels, etc. However, LNG storage tanks in China already feature GTT’s GST membrane containment technology. In 2024, China’s Beijing Gas launched the third phase at its Tianjin Nangang LNG import terminal in the Tianjin south port industrial zone. This phase included the construction of two 220,000-cbm LNG storage tanks, which feature GTT’s tech. Following the launch of the third phase, the Tianjin Nangang LNG terminal has 10 operational tanks with a total capacity of 2.2 million cbm , and eight of these feature GTT tech. .Source: www.Ingprime.com

NOVATEK FORMS SHIPBUILDING UNIT

Russian LNG exporter Novatek has formed a new unit to build vessels and floating facilities. According to a document posted on the website of Russia's register of legal entities, the new firm's name is North Engineering (Severny Inzhiniring). Novatek formed the new Moscow-based entity in late March. The document shows that the unit's main activities will be the construction of ships and floating structures, along with additional engineering-related activities. Novatek appointed Ilya Lushchikov as the CEO of the new unit. He currently leads Novatek's planned Murmansk LNG project. The Russian LNG exporter operates the 17.4 mtpa Yamal LNG plant in Sabetta and the Arctic LNG-2 export plant, which was the first to be hit by US and EU sanctions. Novatek also operates the sanctioned mid-scale LNG plant in Russia's Baltic Sea port of Vysotsk with a capacity of more than 660,000 tons of LNG per year. Western sanctions have severely impacted Novatek's efforts to ship volumes from its Arctic LNG projects. In February, the first Russian-built ice-class LNG carrier Aleksey Kosygin, which serves the Novatek-operated Arctic LNG 2 project, completed its maiden voyage, according to Sovcomflot. In December last year, Russia's Zvezda, located in Primorsky Krai, delivered this ice-class Arc7 172,600-cbm LNG carrier to Sovcomflot. Sovcomflot said that the vessel is the flagship of a new generation of Arctic transport fleet. It was developed as a continuation of the Christophe de Margerie series of vessels, taking into account the unique experience of their operation in difficult climatic conditions, it said. www.ingprime.com

ENI STRIKES MORE GAS OFF EGYPT

Italian energy firm Eni revealed on Tuesday a "significant" gas and condensate discovery offshore Egypt. Preliminary estimates indicate about 2 trillion cubic feet of gas initially in place and 130 Mbbl of associated condensates, according to Eni. The discovery follows the successful drilling of the Denise W 1 exploration well in the Tensah Concession, located offshore in the Eastern Mediterranean. Eni said

