

Gate terminal to build new facilities for distribution of LNG via vessels and barges

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Gasunie and Royal Vopak announce today that their joint venture, Gate terminal, has taken the final investment decision to add LNG break bulk infrastructure and services to the terminal. The new facility in the port of Rotterdam is expected to boost the use of liquefied natural gas (LNG) as a transportation fuel in the Netherlands and Northwest Europe.

Highlights

- **Construction is scheduled to start this year; commissioning and commencement of the first services are scheduled for H1 2016**
- **Terminal will be expanded with an additional harbour basin to enable LNG distribution for small scale use with a maximum capacity of 280 berthing slots per year**
- **Shell has been contracted as launching customer**
- **New infrastructure enables distribution of low emission fuel alternative to transporters all over Europe**

Break bulk (or small-scale) services aim to split up large-scale LNG shipments into smaller quantities. This enables the distribution of LNG as a fuel for maritime vessels, ferries, trucks and industrial applications. The use of LNG as a fuel is expected to grow substantially following the introduction of stringent new emission regulations (SECA) for the marine sector in the North Sea and in the Baltic Sea from 2015. By using LNG as a fuel, barges, coasters, ferries, as well as heavy trucks, can reduce their carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by up to 20%, their nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions by up to 85%, while reducing sulphur and particle emissions to almost zero. For these reasons, the Dutch government and the European Union encourage the development of LNG as a transportation fuel.

In September 2011, Gate terminal, a joint venture of Gasunie and Vopak and located on the Maasvlakte in Rotterdam, started operations. Gate terminal contributes to diversifying the European gas supply by providing access to LNG originating from countries around the world. At Gate, LNG is received, stored, regasified and then fed into the Northwest-European gas grid. In January 2014, Gate has successfully launched a tank truck loading station for trucks and containers, with a total capacity of 5,000 trucks per year. Over the past year, Gate has also developed into a hub, from where LNG can be re-exported to other parts of Europe and around the world.

The Port of Rotterdam Authority is involved in this project with the design and construction of a dedicated harbour basin for LNG break bulk operations and has already introduced new regulations that allow LNG bunkering for inland barges and ship-to-ship bunkering of seagoing vessels. The commissioning and commencement of the first services of this new LNG infrastructure for tanker barges and other small tankers (with a maximum capacity of 280 berthing slots per year), are scheduled for H1 2016. By then, a whole supply chain for LNG will be available in the port of Rotterdam.

As launching customer, Shell plays a key role in enabling the project, which creates the conditions for the use of LNG as a transportation fuel to take off in Northern Europe. From Gate in Rotterdam, it will be possible for customers like Shell to supply LNG to bunker stations in the Wadden area, Scandinavia, the Baltics, but also to stations along the Rhine, Main and Danube – thus providing a low emissions fuel alternative to transporters all over Europe.



The new infrastructure at Gate terminal will also represent an important step in achieving the goals of the 'Green Deal Rhine and Wadden'. This partnership between the Dutch government, business and knowledge institutes aims to promote green growth. With its extended break bulk facilities, Gate terminal will be at the basis of cleaner transport by road, inland waterways and coastal shipping throughout Northern Europe. Surveys indicate that the introduction of LNG as a transport fuel could bring considerable economic growth and employment.

The project is key to facilitate LNG storage and to secure LNG supply in Northwest European ports, such as Gothenburg. The maritime connection between Rotterdam and this area is regarded as a part of the EU 'motorways of the sea' concept and has therefore been selected for co-financing under the European Union's TEN-T programme.

Note for the editors

More information

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Company profiles

Gasunie

Gasunie (N.V. Nederlandse Gasunie) is a European gas infrastructure company. Gasunie's network ranks among the largest high pressure gas pipeline grids in Europe, consisting of over 15,000 kilometers of pipeline in the Netherlands and northern Germany, dozens of installations and approximately 1,300 gas receiving stations. The annual gas throughput totals approximately 125 billion cubic meters. Gasunie offers transport services via its subsidiaries Gasunie Transport Services B.V. (GTS) in the Netherlands and Gasunie Deutschland in Germany. With its cross-border gas infrastructure and its services Gasunie facilitates TTF, which has developed into a leading and strongly growing European gas trading hub. The company also offers other services in the gas infrastructure field, including gas storage and LNG.

Royal Vopak

Royal Vopak (Koninklijke Vopak N.V.) is the world's largest independent liquid bulk tank storage service provider by capacity, specialized in the storage and handling of oil products, liquid chemicals and gasses. The company operates 79 terminals in 29 countries with a combined storage capacity of more than 31 million cubic meters, with another 6.6 million cbm under development. Vopak's mission is to ensure safe, reliable and effective storage and handling of bulk liquid products at key marine locations that are critical to its customers around the world. The majority of its customers are companies operating in the oil, chemicals and gas sector, for which Vopak stores a large variety of products destined for a wide range of industries.

Gate terminal

N.V. Nederlandse Gasunie and Koninklijke Vopak N.V. are the initiators and partners in Gate terminal B.V.. The terminal is operational since September 2011. The imported LNG is unloaded at the terminal, stored and evaporated to natural gas before it is delivered to the transmission network for



the European markets. The terminal has an initial throughput capacity of 12 billion cubic meters per year (bcma), which in the future can be extended to 16 bcma. Gate terminal has also introduced back loading services for a wide range of LNG vessels. In January 2014, Gate has started loading LNG tank trucks and containers, with a total capacity of 5,000 trucks, to further support break bulk market developments.