

Press Release – Monday, 15 July 2013

Elengy's Montoir de Bretagne LNG terminal and Nantes Saint-Nazaire Port Authority to offer LNG ship-to-ship transfer service

Elengy's Montoir de Bretagne LNG terminal and Nantes - Saint Nazaire Port will be rolling out ship-to-ship (STS) transfer services starting this summer. Following the launch of the LNG reloading service in 2012, Elengy is now responding to market demand for direct ship-to-ship transfer between two tankers. STS transfers can be safely carried out in 48 hours.

Starting in 2017, future LNG production in the Arctic region will require STS transfers year-round in order to reach remote markets. An ideal location in Europe is being sought where cargos can be transferred from Ice Class LNG tankers to standard tankers. Elengy is preparing to upgrade its facilities so it can offer 24-hour STS transfer services in order to meet this substantial need. The port's location on the Atlantic coast, featuring favourable conditions, good fairway capacity and solid terminal infrastructure are all key features in capturing what could be up to 5 mtpa of new traffic.

Terminal capable of receiving two LNG tankers simultaneously

With an annual regasification capacity of 10 billion cubic metres, the Montoir de Bretagne LNG terminal has been contributing to Europe's natural gas supply for more than 30 years. Connected to the GRTgaz gas pipeline network, it serves the northern half of France and is a potential point of entry to northwest Europe. It currently has three 120,000 m³ tanks. Certified ISRS 8[®], level 7¹, the terminal has two berths fitted with unloading arms suitable for all types of tankers. Since commissioning in 1980, the terminal has had 2,523 import calls and 11 export calls, receiving more than 100 different ships, i.e. a quarter of the global LNG tanker fleet. It can receive Q-Max tankers, the largest ships currently in service (length: 345 m; beam: 54 m; draught: 12 m; capacity: 265,000 m³).

The terminal's two jetties mean two tankers can moor simultaneously. The STS transfer service uses direct connections so that the transferred LNG is not mixed or stored in the terminal's tanks. In other words, the terminal's regasification capacity is not affected.

The benefits of Nantes - Saint Nazaire Por: ideal weather and marine conditions

Located on the Atlantic coast between Cape Finisterre (in northwest Spain) and Finistère (westernmost point of France), Nantes - Saint Nazaire Port enjoys ideal access conditions. The port is sheltered from the swells of the continental shelf and has low fog levels. Weather conditions are characterised by forecastable windy periods that clear up quickly and some of the lowest levels of lightning strikes in the country.

Clauses pertaining to LNG tanker navigation, such as traffic priorities and berthing conditions, have been incorporated in the Loire estuary police regulations. Vessel calls are managed via a computer tool and require high-level piloting, towing and mooring services. Maritime pilots on the Loire have access to a simulator with a 360° screen they can use to test out new ships at the terminals, including LNG tankers.

¹ International Safety Rating System: international industrial safety certification covering several thousand companies around the world. The certification levels range from 0 to 10. In September 2009 the Montoir de Bretagne LNG terminal was the first industrial site in France and the first LNG terminal in the world to obtain level 7 in ISRS 7[®].

About Nantes - Saint Nazaire Port

A public enterprise corporation, Nantes - Saint Nazaire Port is a tool for economic growth and a regional planner and developer.

Key figures

The 4th largest seaport in Metropolitan France
The leading port on France's Atlantic Seaboard
Linked to nearly 600 ports on 5 continents
1 350 hectares of port, logistics and industrial zones
Over 3 000 vessel calls per year

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About Elengy

As Europe's second-largest LNG terminal operator, Elengy, a GDF SUEZ subsidiary, serves all operators wishing to import liquefied natural gas (LNG) to supply the French and European markets. Elengy operates France's three LNG terminals: Montoir-de-Bretagne on the French Atlantic coast and Fos Tonkin and Fos Cavaou on the Mediterranean.

2012 key figures

Regasification capacity: 23.75 billion m3 of natural gas per year
Quantity of energy received: over 20% of French natural gas consumption
Shipments received: 161
Workforce: 410 employees

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