

FOS CAVAOU LNG TERMINAL RECEIVES ITS FIRST “Q-MAX” – FRANCE’S LARGEST EVER LNG TANKER TO DATE

Fos-sur-Mer, August 13, 2013

Today, the Fos Cavaou LNG terminal received the Al Mafyar Q-Max tanker – the very first of its kind in France. The vessel belongs to the Q-max class: the largest existing tankers for transporting Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG*), with a total fleet of 14 worldwide. This giant of the seas is 345 metres long and 54 metres wide, and can carry up to 266,000 cubic metres of LNG – equivalent to the usage of a city such as Lyon (530,000 inhabitants) in a year.

The access to the Fos Cavaou terminal to receive Q-Max ships involved close cooperation between the company Fosmax LNG, the services of the port of Marseille Fos – especially the Harbour Master’s Office – and the port services, in particular the docking pilots. In their premises, the pilots carried out simulations for vessel approach and berthing in order to be able to receive the Al Mafyar in the safest possible conditions.

Located at the entrance of the port of Fos-sur-Mer, the Fos Cavaou LNG terminal is designed to receive all kinds of vessels. It enjoys both a strategic location on the Mediterranean and an optimal nautical situation (low-amplitude tide and out of the way of port traffic, which is a safety factor when manoeuvring ships). Thanks to its location, it can receive imports both from sources of supply that are nearby – such as North Africa – and further away – such as the Middle East, West Africa, which are major areas of LNG production. Since it became operational in 2010, the terminal has received more than 180 vessels, a quarter of which were “Q-Flex” (210 000 m³), latest-generation ships similarly to the “Q-Max”.

Fos Cavaou is one of Europe’s most dynamic LNG terminals, with a rate of use of over 50% (while the average rate of use of European terminals is about 30%), which amounts to an average of 5 vessels per month. Its capacity is sold by the company Fosmax LNG, which strives to offer increased flexibility by proposing new services each year, including reloading services (4 reloading operations since late 2012).

* Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) is natural gas that has been liquefied by cooling it to minus 160°C. Natural gas in its liquefied form takes up 600 times less space than in its gaseous form. The transportation of natural gas in its liquid form at atmospheric pressure means tankers can ship large volumes of energy, providing an efficient and competitive means of transport with more diversified sources and supply routes, as well as access to remote gas reserves.

***About Fosmax LNG:** Owner of the Fos Cavaou LNG terminal, Fosmax LNG serves all operators who wish to import natural liquefied gas (LNG) to supply the French market and the European markets connected to the French transmission system. Fosmax LNG is a subsidiary of Elengy (72.5%) and Total (27.5%). Elengy, a GDF SUEZ company, is Europe’s second-largest LNG terminal operator, operating three French LNG terminals – Montoir-de-Bretagne on the Atlantic coast, and Fos Tonkin and Fos Cavaou on the Mediterranean.*

2012 key figures:

Regasification capacity	8.25 billion m ³ /year
Storage capacity	330,000 m ³
Shipments received	57
Customers	11

***About the GPMM (Grand Port Maritime de Marseille):** The Port of Marseille Fos is France’s largest port and the leading port in the Mediterranean, with a total traffic of 86 million tonnes in 2012. It positions itself as a versatile port: a variety of merchandise in containers, hydrocarbons, dry bulk, liquid bulk, passengers and naval repairs. Within the Fos industrial zone (10,000 ha), it carries out logistics and industrial activities and protects natural areas.*

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