Qatar is among 'Top 10 LNG exporters' in January; global LNG exports hit 35.5mn tonnes: GECF



Qatar is among the list of 'Top 10 LNG exporters' in January, data provided by the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) show. The other LNG exporting countries in the list are US, Australia, Russia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Algeria, Oman, Nigeria and Trinidad and Tobago.

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Trinidad and Tobago.

In its inaugural edition of the Monthly Gas Market Report (MGMR) GECF said that in January, global LNG exports grew by 2.8% (0.98mn tonnes) y-o-y to 35.56mn tonnes.

The higher LNG exports were driven mainly by non-GECF countries and to a lesser extent from GECF member countries and LNG reloads.

However, GECF member countries were the largest LNG exporter globally with a share of 49.7%, down from 50.9% during the same period a year earlier.

Similarly, the share of LNG reloads in global LNG exports decreased from 1.5% to 1.2% during the same period.

In contrast, the share of non-GECF countries LNG exports globally increased from 47.9% to 48.8%.

GECF cited Rystad Energy's preliminary forecast and said global natural gas production was estimated to have decreased by 0.4% to 4,032 bcm in 2022 due to the decline in production in the CIS and Africa regions.

Several factors, including a decrease in gas demand due to high prices and geopolitical tensions, exerted downward pressure on gas production.

Conversely, natural gas output of North America, the Middle East, Europe, and Latin America increased by 64 bcm, 19 bcm, 7 bcm, and 3bcm, respectively.

The 2022 figures have been slightly revised upward from the previous month's estimates due to upward revisions in natural gas output in Asia Pacific, the Middle East, and North America. Non-GECF natural gas output is estimated to increase by 3.8% to reach 2,388 bcm in 2022, mainly due to a production increase of 47bcm in the US.

In 2023, the forecasts reveal a growth in global gas production, driven by growth in North America, the Middle East, Africa, Latin America, and Asia Pacific.

GECF said it is pleased to unveil the inaugural edition of the Monthly Gas Market Report (MGMR). This new publication offers a comprehensive analysis of the global gas market on a monthly basis.

The report provides essential insights for industry players,

policymakers, and stakeholders, including a detailed analysis of gas demand and supply, international trade flows, gas storage trends, pricing trends, and the impact of the global economy on the gas market.

"The GECF is committed to delivering high-quality information and analysis, and is confident that the Monthly Gas Market Report will be a valuable resource for all those interested in the gas industry," said Mohamed Hamel, secretary-general, GECF.

QatarEnergy wins working interest in new Brazilian offshore exploration block



QatarEnergy, in a consortium with TotalEnergies and Petronas, has been awarded the Agua-Marinha Production Sharing Contract (PSC), under the 1st Cycle Permanent Offer round, by Brazil's National Agency of Petroleum, Natural Gas, and Biofuels (ANP). Under the terms of the PSC and associated agreements, QatarEnergy will hold a 20% working interest, alongside the operator Petrobras (30%), TotalEnergies (30%) and Petronas Petroleo Brasil Ltda (20%).

The Agua-Marinha block has a total area of 1,300sq km and is located in water depths of about 2,000m off the coast of Rio de Janeiro in the prolific Campos Basin.

Commenting on this occasion, HE the Minister of State for Energy Affairs, Saad bin Sherida al-Kaabi, also the president and CEO of QatarEnergy, said: "We are pleased to achieve this latest successful joint-bid, which adds further highly prospective acreage to our upstream portfolio in Brazil, and particularly in the prolific Campos Basin."

Al-Kaabi added: "We are delighted to achieve this success with our valued partners Petrobras, TotalEnergies, and Petronas. I wish to take this opportunity to thank the ANP and the Brazilian authorities for this opportunity and for their ongoing support."

The acquisition, which is expected to close in the first half of 2023, further establishes QatarEnergy as one of the leading upstream players in Brazil, where it already holds working interests in two producing fields and numerous exploration blocks.

Global Star becomes first Nakilat vessel to deliver cargo to Escobar LNG Terminal in Argentina



Nakilat-managed liquefied natural gas (LNG) carrier Global Star, with a carrying capacity of 173,400 cubic metres, has become the first Nakilat vessel to deliver cargo to Escobar LNG Terminal in

Argentina. Escobar LNG terminal is located on the Parana River in Argentina. It has the capacity to handle 500mn cubic feet (mcf) of LNG a day and a peak capacity of 600 mcf.

Al-Kaabi takes part in GPCA 16th annual forum in Riyadh



HE the Minister of State for Energy Affairs Saad bin Sherida al-Kaabi took part in the 16th annual forum of the Gulf Petrochemicals and Chemicals Association (GPCA), which was held in Riyadh in Saudi Arabia.

The forum, which was inaugurated by Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman al-Saud, Saudi Arabia's Minister of Energy, was held under the theme 'Managing net-zero ambitions in the energy sector with growth'.

Delegates are taking part in discussions on developing policies to adopt a lower carbon strategy in the energy sector, driving the shift towards clean energy sources through innovative strategies, realising the future of the region to lead the evolution of 'carbon circular economy', and the way forward for the GCC to lead the development of a 'hydrogen economy'.

The Annual GPCA forum is the flagship petrochemical gathering in the Middle East, bringing together officials and executives of the leading petrochemical and chemical industry companies for an exchange of views on the current situation and future prospects.

QatarEnergy wins offshore exploration block in Atlantic Canada



QatarEnergy has announced a successful bid for Parcel 8 of the Orphan Basin, offshore the province of Newfoundland and Labrador in Canada, expanding its North American footprint.

The Parcel 8 winning bid by QatarEnergy (30% working interest) and ExxonMobil (operator, with a 70% working interest) was announced by the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB) as part of the 2022 Newfoundland and Labrador Call For Bids NL22-CFB01.

Commenting on this occasion, HE the Minister of State for Energy Affairs, Saad bin Sherida al-Kaabi, also the President & CEO of QatarEnergy said, "We are pleased to be the

successful bidder in Parcel 8 offshore Canada, and look forward to maturing the lead prospect's potential, testing an exciting play within a transparent and stable regulatory environment."

Al-Kaabi added, "This successful bid demonstrates our ambition to further increase our footprint in the Atlantic basin, as part of our international growth drive. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the C-NLOPB for an efficient tender process, as well as our strategic partner, ExxonMobil, for their excellent co-operation in achieving this result."

Located offshore Eastern Canada, Parcel 8 lies in water depths of 2,500 to 3,000 metres and covers an area of approximately 2,700 square kilometres.

The entry to the Parcel 8 license is subject to customary government approvals, QatarEnergy said yesterday.

North Field expansion: Recent LNG deals awarded to have positive medium-term impact



Recent LNG deals awarded for Qatar's North Field gas expansion project will have a positive medium-term impact, facilitating an increase in LNG capacity by almost 65% to 126mn tonnes per year (mtpy) by 2027 from 77 mtpy now. Oxford Economics said in its latest country report. In the two weeks. Qatar secured multiyear supply agreements with China and Germany for LNG output set to be added in the first phase of the project due to be completed In 2026. Qatar's non-hydrocarbon sector recovery will slow in 2023 after a strong rebound this year, Oxford Economics said. "We see non-oil GDP growth of 7.6% this year, the fastest rate since 2015. The pace will then slow to 3.3% in 2023 as momentum eases once the World Cup concludes. This will still be stronger than the 2.7% expansion in 2021. which followed a decline of 4.7% in 2020," noted Maya Senussi. senior Middle East economist at Oxford Economics. The non-oil economy surged by 9.7% in Q2, up significantly from 5% in Q1. The latest survey data show momentum has eased from record high levels, but the influx of World Cup fans means non-oil activity should remain resilient at year-end. The latest figures show Qatar's tourist numbers neared 1.2mn in January-September, almost quadrupling relative to the same period in 2021, thanks to a surge in arrivals from other GCC countries as well as India, the US. and the UK. The World Cup event is estimated to attract more than lmn visitors. This should lift

the total number of visitors this year above pre-pandemic levels C2.1mn). The month-long event, which started on November 20, has brought an influx of visitors. supporting activity, despite global headwinds. However, inbound travel to Qatar will decline in 2023. before a rise in regional arrivals spurs a recovery thereafter, the report said. Qatar is the world's second-largest LNG exporter (after the US). There is also heavy investment in gas-to-liquids, petrochemicals, a gas export pipeline, infrastructure, and tourism. Some \$200bn has been spent on infrastructure, partly related to the 2022 football World Cup, and partly to an expanding population and the country's long-term strategy, the Qatar National Vision 2030. In addition, Qatar Is developing into a significant regional financial and educational centre, Oxford Economics noted.

QatarEnergy, ConocoPhillips sign deal to supply LNG to Germany



Deal signed to supply Qatar LNG to Germany QatarEnergy, ConocoPhillips sign deal to supply LNG to Germany

Qatar's first long-term LNG supply deal with Germany was announced Tuesday with QatarEnergy signing two LNG sale and purchase agreements (SPAs) with ConocoPhillips affiliates for the delivery of up to 2mn tonnes per year for at least 15 years.

Pursuant to the two SPAs, a ConocoPhillips wholly-owned subsidiary will purchase the agreed quantities to be delivered ex-ship to the LNG receiving terminal, which is currently under development in Brunsbüttel in northern Germany, with deliveries expected to start in 2026.

The LNG volumes will be sourced from the two joint ventures between QatarEnergy and ConocoPhillips that hold interests in Qatar's North Field East (NFE) and North Field South (NFS) projects.

The SPAs were signed by HE the Minister of State for Energy Affairs, Saad Sherida al-Kaabi, also the President and CEO of QatarEnergy, and Ryan Lance, Chairman and CEO of ConocoPhillips at the QatarEnergy headquarters in Doha

Tuesday.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, al-Kaabi said, "We are pleased to sign these agreements with our partner ConocoPhillips to supply up to 2mn tonnes per year of LNG to Germany from the two QatarEnergy-ConocoPhillips joint ventures in the NFE and NFS LNG expansion projects respectively, starting in 2026.

"These agreements are momentous for several reasons. They mark the first ever long-term LNG supply to Germany with a supply period that extends for at least 15 years, thus contributing to Germany's long-term energy security. They also represent the culmination of efforts between two trusted partners, QatarEnergy and ConocoPhillips, over many years, to provide reliable and credible LNG supply solutions to customers across the globe, and today, to German end-consumers. This is a concrete demonstration of QatarEnergy's resolve to provide reliable energy supplies to all major markets around the world, and of our commitment to the German people."

Low-cost LNG supplier Qatar to remain in 'relatively strong competitive position' : S&P



* Qatar's revenue stream will be significantly enhanced by North Field expansion, whereby Qatari liquefied natural gas production capacity is expected to increase by 64%

As a low-cost LNG supplier, Qatar will remain in a "relatively strong competitive position" even after 2030, although demand is likely to peak in the mid-2030s, with increasing use of renewables in the energy market having a gradual impact on demand for hydrocarbons, S&P Global noted in its ratings upgrade.

S&P recently raised its long-term sovereign credit rating on Qatar to 'AA' from 'AA-', assigned a stable outlook, and affirmed the country's 'A-1+' short-term rating.

In its overview, S&P noted Qatar's debt interest costs as a share of government revenue have fallen, and therefore it expects them to remain low because the government is repaying maturing debt.

Additionally, the government's revenue stream will be significantly enhanced by the North Field expansion, whereby Qatari liquefied natural gas production capacity is expected to increase by 64% (by 2027).

"The upgrade reflects structural improvements in the Qatari government's fiscal position. The government's strategy of

paying off maturing debt, will sustainably reduce debt-servicing costs to below 5% of general government revenue over 2022-2025," S&P said.

Higher gas production related to the North Field expansion, expected to come onstream from end-2025, should further increase Qatari government revenue.

Qatar remains one of the largest exporters of LNG globally. Between 2025 and 2027, the government plans to increase its LNG production capacity by about 64%, from 77mn tonnes per year to 126mn tpy.

The strategic pivot away from Russian gas, particularly by European economies, suggests there will be a ready market for the additional Qatari gas.

In its forecast, S&P said, "We assume that LNG production levels will be largely flat until 2025, but increase by about 30% over 2026-2027, on the assumption that the full increase in capacity will take some time to be fully utilised."

S&P said it expects "strong" non-hydrocarbon sector growth as Qatar hosts the FIFA World Cup from November 20 to December 18, which will support an economic expansion of about 5% in 2022.

After the tournament, S&P has forecast real GDP growth will average about 2.5% over 2023-2025 as gas production levels remain broadly stable and non-hydrocarbon sector growth normalises around 4%.

The country's strong general government net asset position remains a credit strength and it expects it to increase over the period to 2025, supported by investment returns on Qatar's sovereign wealth fund, Qatar Investment Authority (QIA), assets, and the government's repayment of maturing external debt.

Averaging about 150% of GDP in 2022-2025, Qatar Government's large liquid assets provide it with a strong buffer to mitigate the economic effects of external or financial shocks.

QatarEnergy announces hydrocarbon discovery in Brazil's Sepia field



QNA/Doha

QatarEnergy Monday announced an oil discovery in the 4-BRSA-1386D-RJS well in Brazil's world class Sepia oil field, which is located in the prolific Santos Basin in water depths of about 2,000 meters off the coast of Rio de Janeiro.

QatarEnergy acquired a working interest in the Sépia Co-Participated Area in December 2021 during the 2nd Transfer-of-Rights Surplus Bidding Round, which was organized and managed by Brazil's National Agency for Petroleum, Natural Gas and Biofuels (ANP). The Area is operated by Petrobras (with a participating interest of about 52 percent) in partnership with TotalEnergies (19.2 percent), QatarEnergy (14.4 percent) and Petronas Petrleo Brasil Ltda (14.4 percent), with Pre Sal

Petroleo S.A. (PPSA) as manager. The Sepia shared reservoir is currently producing about 170,000 barrels of oil per day.

Commenting on this occasion, HE the Minister of State for Energy Affairs, the President and CEO of QatarEnergy, Saad bin Sherida Al Kaabi, said: "We are encouraged by this discovery, which comes as a result of strategic cooperation with reputable partners in our effort to unlock more global energy resources as part of our comprehensive growth strategy. On this occasion, I would like to congratulate our partners, and I look forward to more future achievements."

The discovery is significant in that the well penetrated a net oil column, which is one of the thickest ever encountered in Brazil. Partners will continue operations to characterize the conditions of the discovered reservoirs and verify the extent of the discovery by conducting well tests. (QNA)

QatarEnergy Trading to offtake, market 70% of LNG produced by Golden Pass project in US



Doha

Affiliates of QatarEnergy and ExxonMobil have agreed to independently offtake and market their respective proportionate equity shares of LNG produced by the Golden Pass LNG Export Project located in Sabine Pass, Texas, the US.

Pursuant to the agreement, QatarEnergy Trading, a wholly owned subsidiary of QatarEnergy, will offtake, transport, and trade 70% of the LNG produced by Golden Pass LNG.

The construction of Golden Pass, which has a total production capacity in excess of 18mn tonnes of LNG per year, is well underway with first LNG production expected by the end of 2024.

Commenting on this development, HE the Minister of State for Energy Affairs, Saad bin Sherida al-Kaabi, also the President and CEO of QatarEnergy said, "The energy market is highly dynamic and undergoing a period of transformation, and LNG will continue to play a key role in meeting global energy demand and ensuring security of supply. This agreement is an important addition to our efforts to meet demand for cleaner energy and to support the economic and environmental requirements for a practical, equitable and realistic energy transition."

Al-Kaabi added: "QatarEnergy is the global leader in LNG, the cleanest of all fossil fuels, and it is only natural for us to increase focus on LNG trading and portfolio optimisation to

deliver innovative LNG solutions that meet the needs of our customers across the globe. I am proud of what QatarEnergy Trading has achieved in the very short time since its inception and with this new addition to its portfolio, I am confident that QatarEnergy Trading will accelerate its efforts to deliver on our aspiration of becoming a world leader in LNG trading in the near future."

As a result of this arrangement, Ocean LNG Limited, a joint venture established in 2016 between affiliates of QatarEnergy and ExxonMobil for offtaking and marketing the entire production of Golden Pass LNG, has ceased operations, and will be wound down.