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Train 4 starts up...

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Atlantic LNG Company of Trinidad and Tobago has announced that the Train 4 facility – one of the world's largest gas liquefaction trains – has begun start-up activities. Train 4 is anticipated to begin production of liquefied natural gas (LNG) on December 16.

Atlantic's Train 4 facility will solidify Trinidad and Tobago's position as the largest exporter of LNG to the United States, increasing Trinidad and Tobago's total capacity to 15 million metric tonnes or 720 billion cubic feet (bcf) per year. This increased capacity is some sixty percent (60%) more than the total amount of LNG that Atlantic exported to the United States in 2004.

The Train 4 construction project, which began in 2003, has logged more than 14 million consecutive man hours without a lost time incident (LTI). For the US\$1.3 billion project, the general contractor Bechtel International Inc. partnered with over thirty local firms, expending an estimated US\$235 million in local engineering, manufacturing and construction services.

The workforce peaked at 3,500 persons during construction. The project's remaining milestones include the completion of a 160,000 cubic metre LNG storage tank.

In preparation for operation of a four train facility, Atlantic LNG increased its permanent employment from 120 at the start of its first Train in 1999, to 600 by the end of 2005.

Atlantic LNG's Train 4 is owned by the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago and three companies in the international oil and gas industry: BP, BG Group and Repsol YPF. Train 4's first cargo will be lifted by BP.

BACKGROUND

The first Train was built in 1995 to liquefy natural gas for export by BP Trinidad LNG B.V., British Gas Trinidad LNG Ltd., Repsol International Finance B.V., Suez LNG Finance S.A. and the Trinidad and Tobago National Gas Company.

The company operates in the Atlantic Basin and is the major supplier of LNG to the US market. The company also exports to Spain, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic.

The Train 4 owners are BP (Barbados) Holding SRL (37.78% shareholding), BG Trinidad LNG Limited (28.89%), Repsol Overzee Financien B.V. (22.22%) and NGC LNG (Train 4) Limited (11.11%). Train 4 joins three operational 'trains' or liquefaction units sited in Point Fortin, Trinidad. The Trains are owned separately, but a joint use and operating agreement among owners allows them to be run in combination, sharing common assets and costs. Train 4 will operate as a processor of gas.

Atlantic's facilities consist of four tanks, a port area, two jetties, an approach channel and turning basin used by LNG carriers to arrive at the jetties. These can accommodate LNG carriers of up to 145,000 cubic metres in size.

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