

## Qatargas' Jetty Boil-off Gas Recovery Project achieves key safety milestone

Qatargas' Jetty Boil-off Gas Recovery (JBOG) Project recently achieved a milestone by clocking 20mn man hours without a single lost time incident (LTI).

The project also had the distinction of achieving 'zero' LTIs spread over three years.

Qatargas, which produces 42mn tonnes of LNG a year, has a vision to set the global standard for safety, health and environment performance. In line with Qatargas' mission to maintain the highest safety and health standards, the JBOG Project Management Team has made the safety of its workers the number-one priority of the project.

Supported by its main contractors, Fluor, Qcon and Qatar Kentz, the

project leaders have devised, implemented and continuously improved several key behavioural and construction safety programmes for its peak workforce of around 3,500 workers.

The project has created an 'Incident and injury free' culture, which trains and encourages its people to stop work if it is unsafe. Workers must consider their personal safety, and that of their fellow workers, as their number-one priority. The JBOG Project has implemented 12 golden rules for safety. These include the Qatargas Life Saving Rules. All workers are trained to recognise the importance of complete and unqualified compliance with these golden rules.

The project management team members visit the site daily to monitor



A view of Qatargas' Jetty Boil-off Gas Recovery (JBOG) Project.

and assess the quality of daily safety task assessments. This critical programme is designed to raise the quality of the safety dialogue between the workers' crews and their supervisors. The Qatargas JBOG Project Leadership

Team pays serious and continuous attention to the welfare of the project's workers.

The quality of boarding, lodging, transport and health facilities for the workers have been continuously im-

proved and enhanced to provide the workers with safe, comfortable and enjoyable living conditions.

Qatargas chief operating officer, Engineering and Ventures, Sheikh Khalid bin Abdulla al-Thani, said he was extremely happy to see the JBOG Project fulfill the mission of Qatargas by producing outstanding results in the quest to keep people and property safe. Sheikh Khalid attributed this success to the project's "compliance culture", which pays full attention to understanding and implementing all relevant procedures.

He believes that the project's weekly audit of 100% of its open permits has not only raised awareness about permit compliance, but has also strengthened safe working procedures on the project.

Sheikh Khalid congratulated the JBOG Project Management Team and all its contractors on achieving this success and called upon them to continue their safe working record until the last day of the project.

Qatargas JBOG Project manager Bashir Mirza expressed "delight and pride" to be part of a project team, which has united under the banner of "Everybody goes home safe".

Mirza thanked Qcon, Qatar Kentz, Medgulf, Teyseer, Draieh, Shaqab Abela, G4S and other JBOG contractors on forming a unified and consistent approach to safe working. He urged all the people on JBOG to continue their vigilance and commitment to ensure that the project maintained a 'Goal Zero' mentality, to keep people safe always.

# Qatar has long-term commitment to UK's energy security: al-Marri

Denise Marray  
London

Energy is a hugely politicised subject in the UK with the main industry players under mounting pressure to keep a lid on prices not just from consumers but regulators. Now a big question is looming over who should control the North Sea oil and gas supplies. With Scotland debating whether it should become an independent country, the stakes over management of the remaining reserves are rising. To the extent that Monday saw the UK cabinet convening in Aberdeen, the heartland of the oil and gas industry, in only the second such gathering in Scotland since 1921. Just a few miles away Ministers from the Scottish government held their own talks on this sensitive subject. It was a case of High Noon at the gas field.

Far removed from all this political turmoil, in the South of Wales, lies an important part of the answer to the UK's energy needs. Energy that travels over 6,811 nautical miles from the Port of Ras Laffan in Qatar to the deep water port of Milford Haven. Energy that arrives in state of the art, double-hulled ships to the South Hook LNG Terminal where the liquefied natural gas (LNG) is converted from a liquid back into a gas and delivered to the UK's homes and business via the national grid.

In his office overlooking the River Thames in the London Bridge Quarter, and with a view of the Shard where the company will relocate in May, South Hook gas director and general manager, Rashid al-Marri keeps his focus on what his company has to offer. "Our mandate is to maximise the utilisation of the South Hook LNG terminal, and so apart from our core supply agreement with QatarGas, we have also signed agreements with a number of other companies including RasGas, Total, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Axpo and Noble Group. This means that the UK has access to additional supplies of natural gas, not just from Qatar but potentially from elsewhere in the world," he said.

South Hook Gas has the capacity to provide



Al-Marri: Focused

around 20% of the UK's energy supplies. Just one Q-Max vessel supplies enough natural gas to meet London's demand for a week. "You can see how UK energy security has improved thanks to the arrival of Qatari LNG," commented al-Marri.

Looking further afield he said: "Europe is no longer an energy island. Thanks to LNG, it now has access to additional supplies from around the world. With improved interconnectivity between the UK and Europe, the energy goes to where it is needed most. For example, in recent years, the UK had record gas exports to Europe thanks to the liquidity in the UK market provided by Qatari LNG."

Asked to comment on the EU policies needed to ensure that the gas market remains viable for gas shippers and investors, al-Marri said: "There is a need for light touch regulations which include a technology-neutral policy. That is, if you are subsidising a new energy technology, it will be in the expectation that this will be phased out once it becomes mature." He also called for a better understanding of the risks for investors. "The electoral cycle is five years but the investment cycle is twenty-five years or more, so investors need to be able to assess the potential for the market in



A view of the South Hook LNG Terminal.

the 2030s and 40s, not just 2014," he said.

He pointed out that Qatar had made a significant, long term commitment to the UK, noting: "When our shareholders (Qatar Petroleum International and Exxon Mobil) and the shareholders in South Hook LNG Terminal decided to invest over £1bn in the UK to establish our businesses, it was because they believe that the UK is an attractive long-term market with benefits for both Qatar and the UK."

He added: "We have a twenty-five year supply agreement with Qatargas 2. When this project was started, it was part of a full value chain of Qatargas 2 between the offshore facilities, the processing LNG trains in Ras Laffan, the fleet of Q-Max and Q-Flex LNG tankers, the South Hook LNG Terminal and South Hook Gas. That project was around roughly \$14bn in total. You can imagine the scale of this project and the sophisticated technology which was

used to construct the largest integrated LNG value chain." When asked about the North Sea gas supplies, where production peaked in 1999, al-Marri commented: "We have seen a decline in UK domestic natural gas production and this means that there is an opportunity for increased LNG imports to meet future demand. Natural gas has been proven to be the cleanest fossil fuel and an affordable and abundant, energy source."

## Qatar Airways, Cathay Pacific in strategic deal; Cathay to debut Doha route on March 30

Qatar Airways and Cathay Pacific, both Oneworld alliance members, have announced a "strategic agreement" on services operated by both the airlines between Hong Kong and Doha, from March 30.

Sales have commenced yesterday, the airlines said in a joint statement. The agreement between the two airlines is expected to generate a wide range of benefits for customers.

Under the new agreement, Cathay Pacific and Qatar Airways will each operate one flight between Hong Kong and Qatar daily, offering "premium" products and services to passengers travelling to and from the two cities.

Cathay Pacific makes its debut on the Doha route on March 30, launching a daily service using Airbus A330-300 aircraft with a three-class configuration - business, premium economy and economy Class.

The new agreement will give customers of both airlines "more opportunities" to earn and redeem frequent flyer points or miles. Top-tier members from Cathay Pacific's The Marco Polo Club and Qatar Airways' The Privilege Club will enjoy reciprocal benefits when travelling on flights between Hong Kong and Qatar, including lounge access, extra baggage allowances, priority boarding and many other priority services.

Qatar Airways' CEO Akbar al-Baker said: "Qatar Airways is delighted to extend our Oneworld partnership with Cathay Pacific



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with this new initiative as it will offer our passengers the opportunity to enjoy an even greater range of five-star benefits. The advantages of this agreement, such as premium lounge access and extra baggage allowances, reflect our ongoing commitment to ensure that we offer the highest standard of in-flight experience."

Cathay Pacific chief executive John Slosar said: "Cathay Pacific has a strong

commitment to serving the Middle East. We are pleased to enter into this agreement with Oneworld partner Qatar Airways, and at the same time launch our own new service to Doha. This exciting business opportunity will help us maximise the potential of the market between Qatar and Hong Kong and enable both airlines to create synergies that will improve the overall travel experience for our customers."

## QIB wins Euromoney award for Best Islamic Bank

QIB took home the Euromoney Islamic Finance Award for being the Best Islamic Bank in Qatar in the 13th Annual Islamic Finance Summit held in London, it was learnt.

The award, which was received on behalf of the bank by Andrew Fursman from QIB-UK, recognises achievements for 2013 based on the annual financial results "where QIB achieved growth across different lines of business."

The Bank has increased business volumes across all market segments, "which had positive impact on QIB's end of year financial results, solidifying its position as a leading bank in Qatar."

QIB group CEO Bassel Gamal said the main reason for QIB's success is that "it provides an unparalleled progressive Shari'a-compliant banking experience."

"QIB posted positive financial figures over the past year. The bank's total assets have now jumped to QR77.4bn - a growth rate of 5.7% year-on-year, with financing activities continuing to be the major growth driver, reaching QR47.1bn, which represents 9.3% growth compared to the previous year," Gamal said.

According to Gamal, "Overall, Islamic Banks are growing at a faster pace than conventional



The QIB main building. The bank continues to offer new products and services to maintain leadership among Islamic finance institutions.

ones, and are rapidly becoming more advanced and sophisticated in the region in terms of products and services."

"As for QIB, we continue to offer new products and services to maintain our leadership among Islamic finance institutions in order to meet all the financial needs of our corporate and individual customers in the midst of fierce competition at the local and regional level," he added.

Gamal noted that "customer deposits at QIB have also registered a strong growth rate of

16.7% and stood at QR50.4bn by the end of 2013, reflecting a well-balanced financial position and the customers' confidence in the financial services and solutions offered by QIB."

The Euromoney Awards for Excellence is considered to be the leading banking awards that single out banking institutions offering universal banking services and that are granted to financial institutions that have a proven record of excellence, innovation and leadership in the financial and banking markets in which they excel.