

■ Thursday 30 October 2014

LIQUID NATURAL GAS (LNG) SUPPLY CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

On 25 April 2014, following the European directive for a drastic reduction in sulphur emissions from ships, particularly in the Channel and North Sea area, and ahead of the opening of the LNG Terminal, Dunkerque-Port issued a Call for Expressions of Interest (CEI) for the setup of a marine bunkering and on-land supply chain of small-scale LNG from the port of Dunkirk.

This CEI served initially to identify the operators interested in this activity, and the selected candidates were then asked to structure and submit a project file on 8 September 2014.

Certain bids were eliminated during the preliminary analysis, and a detailed analysis of the project files is in progress with the Dunkerque LNG – Air Liquide – Exmar consortium.

The project presented by these companies is organised as follows:

- **On-land supply:** Dunkerque LNG and Air Liquide will be responsible for the preliminary studies, the engineering and the investments. Gaz-Opale, a subsidiary of Dunkerque LNG operating the LNG terminal, will operate the on-land installation.

- **Marine bunkering:** Dunkerque LNG will be responsible for the preliminary studies, the engineering and the investments for the installations to transfer LNG from the terminal network connection as far as the loading arm.

Exmar, for its part, will handle the preliminary studies, the engineering and the building of a bunkering ship with a capacity to be defined according to LNG requirements as identified during the initialisation phase. Its operation will be assigned to Exmar Shipmanagement (a subsidiary of Exmar).

During the first phase it is proposed that the loading arms and the main wharf of the LNG terminal, currently under construction, be adapted to rapidly allow the supply of LNG to ships with capacities of up to 2,000 m³.

In a second phase the consortium proposes to create a marine station specifically dedicated to bunkering, which could accommodate ships with capacities of between 2,000 and 20,000 m³.

Gaz-Opale will operate the marine station.

During a later phase the consortium also plans to build a bunkering barge which could supply vessels on the inland waterway networks.

Following this detailed analysis and the finalisation of the project, an agreement will be signed with this consortium and a call for funding issued soon afterwards, notably under the European Union's TEN-T proposals scheme.



PRESS CONTACT

Marie-Elizabeth BOGUCKI
Tél (Phone) : +33 (0)3 28 28 79 11
Mobile : +33 (0)6 07 13 33 42
Email : mebogucki@portdunkerque.fr

France's third-ranking port, Dunkirk is well known as a port handling heavy bulk cargoes for its numerous industrial installations. It has also built its reputation in other sectors such as cross-Channel RORO traffic to Great Britain, containers, fruit, etc. Classified as the seventh port of the North Europe Range which extends from Le Havre to Hamburg, Dunkirk is also the leading French port for ore and coal imports, France's leading port for containerised fruit imports, and the country's second-ranking port for trade with Great Britain.