

10 minutes with...

Marcel Tijhuis

Gasunie and German LNG Terminal GmbH



Good morning Marcel, have I caught you at a good moment to get an update on the German LNG Terminal?

Yes, this is ideal. And the timing is perfect. We have just completed a year's worth of activity to prepare the final permit application for the terminal, which we will be handing over to the authorities shortly. German LNG Terminal GmbH continues to work with the authorities on the permit approval process, with the permit application package planned for formal submission within the coming months. During the coming months, German LNG Terminal GmbH will also be finalising an EPC tender package and will approach interested parties to participate in the process.

Ok, so that must mean you are closing in on a final investment decision?

Indeed, we are. Final investment decision for the terminal is due at the end of 2019, allowing for detailed engineering and early procurement activities to commence immediately after. Main construction will follow upon receipt of the necessary permits. The terminal is planned to come into operation in early 2023. Furthermore, we are in contact with potential lenders and discussing the best way to finance the project. There is no shortage of interest from banks and investors who are keen to get involved.

And you must be lining up an EPC contractor also at this stage, right?

Absolutely. And they will have a thrilling project mandate to work on when it is issued in the summer. The terminal

concept is highly flexible with a single jetty that is capable of simultaneously berthing a Q-Max LNG tanker and a smaller vessel of up to 20 thousand cubic metres capacity.

There are also off-takes to road and rail tankers planned and regasification for grid injection. And somewhere at the centre of all of that there will need to be a highly sophisticated process control system that relies on the latest digital technologies. It will be like the beating heart of our terminal, sucking LNG in through the veins and pumping it out through the arteries.

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Can you tell us more about the distributive LNG market that the terminal will serve?

That's a very dynamic area of our planning. The key here is flexibility and our plans will allow for both road and rail transportation to local markets. The distributive LNG market is in such a rapid phase of growth that we must keep all our options open about how best to serve it.

So, you are planning for growth in distributive LNG in northern Germany?

That's right. Customers are watching the various liquefaction investments that are proposed around the world. All of these spectacular investments play in their favour because abundant LNG supplies close to our location in northern Europe will mean that they can be sure of long-term access to this clean and cost-effective energy source.

Is the clean energy label one that you are benefitting from?

Yes, for sure. As an example, we are located just at the entrance of the Kiel Canal which links the North Sea with the Baltic Sea. So, we are ideally placed to offer LNG for bunkering as a marine fuel to ships using that corridor. And LNG tankers, like the 15,600m³ capacity Coral Energy, can use the canal to export LNG to the Nordic countries.

The German government is highly supportive of LNG and is offering subsidies to encourage its use. We see the environmental benefits of LNG as an important factor supporting our investment case.

Marcel, thank you for talking to gasworld today.

OK, thanks from my side too. And perhaps we can talk again as further milestones in the German LNG Terminal project are reached in the coming months and years. [GW](#)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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