

## The CORE LNGas hive project presents liquefied natural gas as the immediate future of sustainable maritime transport

- **The conference was opened by the President of the Spanish Ports Authority, José Llorca, the Director General for Energy and Mines of the Government of Galicia, Ángel Bernardo Tahoces; Enagás Gas Assets General Manager, Claudio Rodríguez; and the General Manager of Reganosa, Emilio Bruquetas.**
- **The progress made on the project and the efforts of the European Commission and the Spanish Government to promote transport decarbonisation were presented.**
- **The event included a round table discussion on the implementation of LNG as a maritime fuel, with the participation of ship owners, shipbuilders, certification agencies and government institutions.**
- **The Secretary General of the Marine Department of the Government of Galicia, María Isabel Concheiro, closed the event.**

**Silleda, 23 March 2018**

The second CORE LNGas hive project conference for the promotion of liquefied natural gas (LNG) as a fuel in the transport sector took place today in Silleda, within the framework of the Galicia Energy Exhibition – Feria de la Energía de Galicia. The event was officially opened by the President of the Spanish Ports Authority, José Llorca, the Director General for Energy and Mines of the Government of Galicia, Ángel Bernardo Tahoces; Enagás Gas Assets General Manager, Claudio Rodríguez; and the General Manager of Reganosa, Emilio Bruquetas.

The aim of the conference was to reveal the status of the project and the commitment of the European Commission and the Spanish Government to promote decarbonisation of the transport sector, especially maritime transport.



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The President of the Spanish Ports Authority José Llorca, highlighted that CORE LNGas hive "it is a State project", and therefore a cooperative project in which all the partners participate in an active way. "In the field of international maritime transport, Spain is at the centre of the great routes and in a privileged position for the supply of LNG to ships" because we are the first country in Europe in infrastructure, he said. Llorca announced the forthcoming publication of a royal decree of tolls on the shipment of LNG, hitherto heavily penalized, which will include a third level for supplies of less than 5,000 m<sup>3</sup>. This is essential to make Spain an LNG hub. Other regulatory aspects are also advanced so that the refreshment becomes a basic port service.

The Director General for Energy and Mines, Ángel Bernardo Tahoces, for whom "LNG will be the transitional fuel for renewables, not only in the field of transport", emphasized the need to determine what regulation supply vessels will have and how to implement LNG in coastal vessels and in the fishing fleet, and concluded that "we have to put all the means to make this project a reality as soon as possible".

In words of the Gas Assets General Manager for Enagás, Claudio Rodríguez, "The Spanish gas system has spent close to 50 years innovating in logistical alternatives that today, through the CORE LNGas hive project, allow us to showcase an experience that we have turned into an opportunity to develop sustainable solutions for more competitive and efficient maritime transport that is respectful of air quality.

The General Manager of Reganosa Emilio Bruquetas, affirmed the need to "specify all the plans contained in the CORE LNGas hive project so that Spain becomes an engine for the change of fuel in maritime transport. The sea cannot be forgotten in this era of energy transition and we must offer ship owners efficient infrastructures that guarantee the availability of LNG in ports. This project is a very important step, it has shown us the way, but it is only the beginning".

Monika Zsigri, representative of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Energy, highlighted the promotion being given to alternative zero or low-emission fuels, which can play an important part in the transition towards sustainable, low-emission energy.



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José Enrique Murcia, technical leader of the project, presented an update of the progress made by the members in the 25 activities, 14 studies and 11 pilot projects involved, targeted at adapting infrastructure and the development of logistic and commercial facilities to provide small-scale services (storage) and bunkering (LNG supply as fuel for ships).

After, Carlos Vales, director of the Reganosa Hub project explained the specific aspects of the North-West Iberian Hub, including the existing plans to equip the Mugarodos terminal with a new storage tank and jetty, in addition to adapting the existing jetty to small-scale traffic, in order to serve the future demand arising from sustainable shipping. The North-West Iberian Hub project, in which the Government of Galicia, the University of Santiago de Compostela, the Ferrol Port Authority, Navantia and Reganosa are participating, came about through the willingness to take full advantage of the conditions offered by Galicia, owing to its geostrategic position, shipbuilding industry and sizeable fishing fleet, and the region's port and gas infrastructure.

A round table discussion was then held, focused on the implementation of LNG as a maritime fuel, which was presented as the most economically and environmentally efficient substitute for the fuels currently used in shipping. The discussion presented the perspectives of shipbuilders, ship owners, shippers, certification agencies and government institutions. The Director General for Fishing, Aquaculture and Technological Innovation of the Government of Galicia, Mercedes Rodríguez Moreda, explained the assistance offered by the government for the incorporation of LNG as a fuel, demand for which is growing in the current context of emissions reduction.

The conference took place at the Galicia Energy Exhibition – Feria de la Energía de Galicia and was attended by the five Galician partners taking part in the CORE LNGas hive project, the Energy Institute of Galicia (Inega), the port authorities of Ferrol and Vigo, the University of Santiago de Compostela, and Reganosa, organiser of the event.

### **About the CORE LNGas hive project**

The aim of the project is to create a safe, efficient and integrated logistics and supply chain for LNG as a fuel in the transport sector, particularly for maritime



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transport, in the Iberian Peninsula. Led by the Spanish Ports Authority and coordinated by Enagás, the CORE LNGas hive project has a total of 42 partners from Spain and Portugal: 8 institutional partners, 13 port authorities and 21 industrial partners, LNG operators, shipbuilders, regasification companies and other companies.

LNG is one of the most environmentally friendly fuels. Compared to other conventional fuels, it completely eliminates sulphur oxide (SOx) and particle emissions and substantially reduces nitrogen oxides (NOx), which helps to comply with the increasingly strict environmental standards in the maritime sector and to advance in the process of decarbonisation of the Mediterranean and Atlantic corridors, in line with the European Union strategy on alternative fuel infrastructures (Clean Power for Transport).

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