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29TH WORLD GAS CONFERENCE

WGC2025

BEIJING, CHINA 19-23 MAY

THURSDAY 22 MAY 2025

Michael Stoppard
Senior Advisor
Global Gas Strategy Lead
S&P Global

H.E. Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi
Minister of State for Energy Affairs
State of Qatar
President and Chief Executive Officer
QatarEnergy

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NEWS

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CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

With the event in full flow, *WGC2025* continues to deliver powerful insights and meaningful dialogue. Whether you've been with us from the start or are just joining – welcome!

So far, we've explored the future of gas, energy security, and the vital role gas plays in the energy transition. With just two days to go, don't miss the upcoming discussions on AI, digital tech, and emerging gas markets and take every opportunity to connect, collaborate, and be part of shaping what's next

WGC2025 EVENT APP

Just two days left at *WGC2025*. Have you connected with everyone you planned to meet? Don't miss the chance to network and use the *WGC2025* Event App to schedule meetings with fellow attendees.

REGISTRATION OPENING TIMES

Thursday 22 May 2025:	08:00–20:30
Friday 23 May 2025:	08:00–12:00

Download on the App Store

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TODAY'S PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

- **PL06 – What is the Future of Global LNG?**
  Delve into the evolving role of LNG in the global energy landscape and its key role in addressing energy security and sustainability challenges.
  Time: 09:00 – 10:15
  Location: L3 Ballroom

DON'T MISS THIS MORNING'S CO-HOSTED SESSIONS:

- **CD20: The Future of New Gases**
  Time: 10:45-11:30
  Location: Room 253
  Co-hosted by: SINOPEC
- **CD23: Natural Gas Pipeline Network Operations**
  Time: 11:45-12:30
  Location: Room 244
  Co-hosted by: 国家石油天然气管网集团有限公司 China Oil & Gas Pipeline Network Corporation
- **CD28: Global LNG Trends - 2025 World LNG Report Release**
  Time: 11:45-12:30
  Location: Room 255
  Co-hosted by: 中国海油 CNOOC

LUNCHEON: WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVES: INSIGHTS FROM LEADERS IN THE ENERGY INDUSTRY

Join us for a special luncheon where leading women in energy share their experiences and insights. This session will highlight their significant contributions to the industry, from innovation to creating more inclusive and equitable environments, and inspire future generations of women to pursue careers in energy.

Moderator: Tze San Koh, President, China Natural Gas Business; Vice Chair, ExxonMobil (China) Investment Co., Ltd.
Speaker: Meg O'Neill, CEO & MD, Woodside Energy; Charlotte Wolff-Bye, Vice President & Group Chief Sustainability Officer, PETRONAS
Time: 12:30 – 13:40
Location: Room 243 + Room 245

NETWORKING RECEPTION

Be part of the final networking reception at *WGC2025*. Connect with new colleagues, reflect on the week's achievements, and enjoy a memorable Italian-themed evening. Don't miss the opportunity to unwind and forge lasting relationships in a vibrant atmosphere.

Date: Thursday 22 May 2025

Time: 18:30 – 21:00

Location: Lunch Hall & Xi Yuan on Level 3, CNCC II

TECHNICAL TOURS

We invite you to discover Beijing's energy and sustainability in action with two exclusive site visits:

Beijing Gas Xiji Station — Explore one of the city's key natural gas hubs

Time: Thursday 22 May 2025 at 13:00

Meeting Point: Gates 6 and 7, CNCC II

Gaobeidian Reclaimed Water Plant, Huaneng Beijing Thermal Power Plant — See how reclaimed water and thermal power come together for a greener future.

Time: Thursday 22 May 2025 at 13:00

Meeting Point: Gates 6 and 7, CNCC II

EXHIBITION

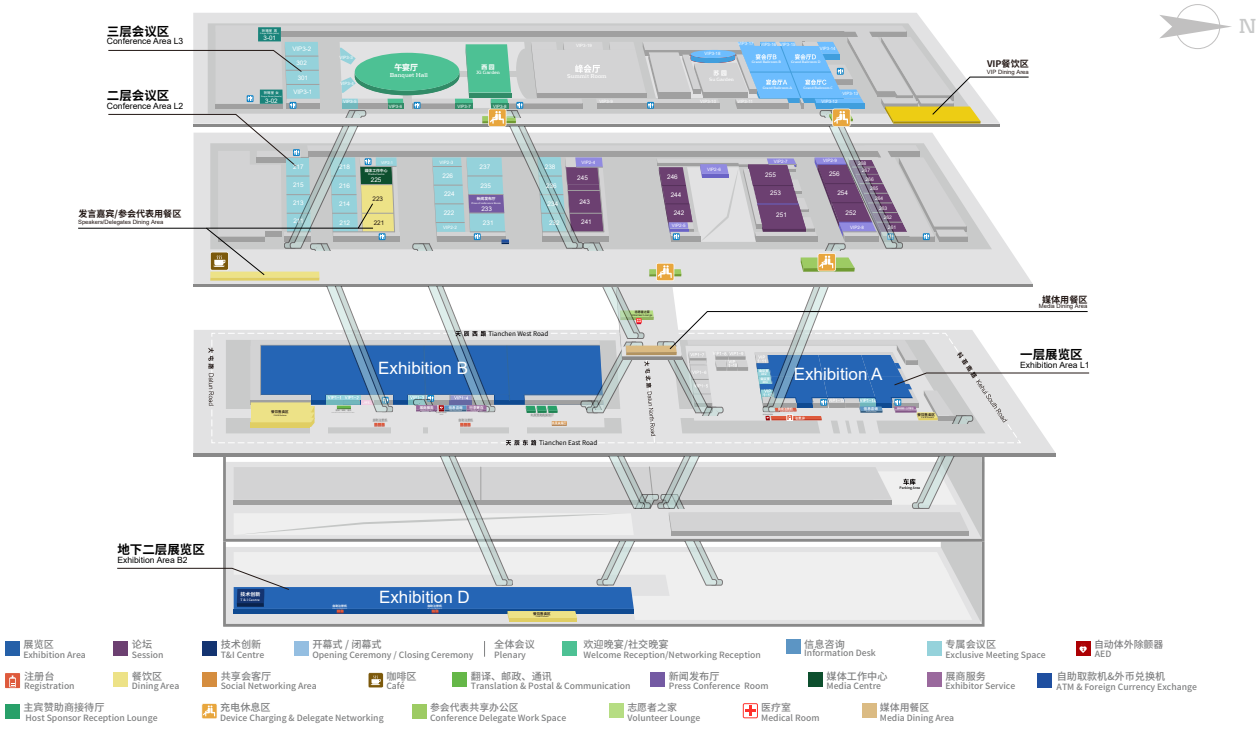
Today is the final full day of the *WGC2025* Exhibition, so make sure you connect with those you've been meaning to meet. The exhibition is open to both trade visitors and delegates. Enjoy exclusive access to this dynamic space, where conference delegates, policymakers, trade visitors, and fellow exhibitors gather to exchange ideas and make valuable connections.

Exhibition Opening Times

Thursday 22 May 2025:	09:00–17:30
Friday 23 May 2025:	09:00–14:00

Location: Exhibition A and B on L1, and Exhibition D on B1

WGC2025 FLOORPLAN



TOMORROW'S HIGHLIGHTS

As we approach the final day of *WGC2025*, the conference continues to offer compelling discussions on the future of natural gas in energy systems, carbon pricing for decarbonisation, and innovations in gas distribution. Be sure to join us for the Closing Ceremony, where we'll reflect on the key takeaways from the week. Then in the afternoon, take advantage of our exclusive City Tours to experience Beijing's energy and sustainability initiatives firsthand.

- **CD29: Technological Innovation for Safe Operations of Gas Distribution**
  Time: 09:00 – 09:45
  Moderator: Jamie Webster, Partner and Associate Director, BCG Center for Energy Impact
  Speakers: Li Shengguo, Deputy General Manager, Beijing Gas Group Co., Ltd.; Paul D. Wehnert, Executive Vice President & Chief Marketing Officer, Heath Consultants Inc.; Zhao Shangxin, General Manager of Science and Technology Department; Representative and Party Secretary of General Research Institute, China Oil & Gas Pipeline Network Corporation; Minoru Konno, Team Lead Manager, Techonology Research Institute, Tokyo Gas Network Company
  Co-hosted by: 北京燃气 BEIJING GAS
- **The last Plenary Session of the week – PL08: The Role of Natural Gas in the Future Energy Systems**
  Time: 10:00 – 11:00
  Keynote Speaker: Huang Weihe, Academician, Chinese Academy of Engineering
  Panel Discussion: Mohamed Hamel, Secretary General, Gas Exporting Countries Forum; Marcelo Mena, CEO, Global Methane Hub; Menelaos Ydreos, Secretary General, International Gas Union (IGU) and moderated by Edmund Crooks, Vice Chair for the Americas Region, Wood Mackenzie

DON'T MISS THE WGC2025 CLOSING CEREMONY

Join us to reflect on a week of progress and innovation as we close this chapter and look forward to the future of the global gas and energy industry. The Closing Ceremony will also mark the moment we pass the torch to Milan, Italy, for the next World Gas Conference. Don't miss this opportunity to say goodbye to new friends and colleagues and anticipate the exciting advancements ahead.
Time: 11:15 – 12:30
Location: Banquet Hall on Level 3, CNCC II

EXPLORE BEIJING

Beijing offers unforgettable experiences just beyond the conference doors. Whether you have an hour between sessions or an evening free, here are some accessible cultural highlights to explore during your stay.

Peking Opera Night at Liyuan Theatre
Experience one of China's most iconic performing arts. The theatre is central, and the show runs for about 1.5 hours, ideal after dinner or as a group outing.

Hutong Walking Tour (or Rickshaw Ride)
A relaxed, cultural experience that takes just a couple of hours. See Beijing's traditional side, meet locals, and stop by boutique shops or teahouses.

798 Art District
For delegates staying the weekend or arriving early, a stroll through this repurposed factory complex filled with galleries, cafes, and street art is a modern contrast to the city's history.

Chinese Calligraphy or Tea Ceremony Workshop
Take a 30 to 60-minute break to enjoy a hands-on workshop in Chinese calligraphy or a traditional tea ceremony, an inspiring way to unwind and experience local culture.

Evening Visit to the Forbidden City (Palace Museum)
Perfect for an early evening after conference sessions. A guided twilight tour offers cooler weather and fewer crowds—plus stunning photo ops as the sun sets on the red walls.

HELPFUL TIPS

Language & Connectivity: English is not widely spoken and translation apps can be very helpful.
Payments: Mobile payments like Alipay or WeChat Pay are widely used, set them up in advance to make transactions quick and easy.
Getting Around: The subway system is extensive and reliable. Taxis are also available and have your destination written in Chinese for ease.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Housekeeping

At *WGC2025*, we are committed to making it an enjoyable experience throughout this week. Below are some useful housekeeping guidelines to ensure your visit is memorable and educational:

Access to the Conference and Exhibition

For initial badge collection for individual delegates, please have the Proof of registration or your registration QR code. If you haven't saved them beforehand, you can simply scan the onsite QR code to retrieve your personal QR code or show Passport or valid ID card for badge pick-up. Group Proof of registration or your registration QR code is required for group registrations and Exhibition Confirmation Letter is needed for exhibitors badge collection.

You'll be required to wear your badge at all times during *WGC2025*, including social functions. You'll only be able to access the areas of the event that match your participation type, as shown on your badge.

Shuttle Buses

Complimentary shuttle buses for conference delegates and exhibitors are provided between the official partner hotels and CNCC. Further details can be found on the *WGC2025* Official Website and the Event App.

Dress Code

Business attire is requested for attendance at the conference, exhibition, technical tours and all networking functions.

Download the Event App

The Event App is your essential guide to *WGC2025* with the full programme, speaker profiles, exhibition layout, and more all at your fingertips. If you have any questions, our team at the Information Desk in the Foyer of Exhibition A (L1) and the Foyer of Exhibition B (L1) will be happy to help.

Conference Refreshments

Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea are provided to all conference delegates. Please see the times and locations in the event programme or on the *WGC2025* Event App. All conference delegates are reminded to wear their badge to access these areas. Bistros are open in both exhibition levels for food and beverage purchases for exhibitors and trade delegates. F&B Pop-ups will also be open for paid purchases, located in the northern part of Exhibition Area A's Foyer, the southern part of Exhibition Area B's Foyer and the outside of Exhibition Area D.

Charging Station

A Charging Lounge is located at Foyer of L2 and Foyer of L3.

Prayers Room

Both male and female prayer rooms are located at L3, 3-01 is for male and 3-02 is for female. Please refer to Directional Signage for further details.

Photography
The organisers of WGC have professional photographers taking photos throughout the event. These images may be used in post-event reports, case studies, marketing collateral and supplied to industry media. If you do not want your photo to be taken, please advise the photographer.

Media and PR Enquiries
For media and PR enquiries please visit the Media Team at the Media Centre, at 225.

Medical Support and Emergency Assistance
First Aid is located at L1M. In the event of an emergency, please adhere to the instructions provided by security personnel and venue staff.

Smoking Policy
The CNCC is a non-smoking venue. Attendees are requested not to smoke inside the building.

Luggage Storage
The Luggage Storage is located in the Foyer of Exhibition A and Foyer of Exhibition B. The Luggage Storage is available for storage of personal items only and cannot be used for the storage of event-related material. The organisers do not take responsibility for any lost or stolen items.

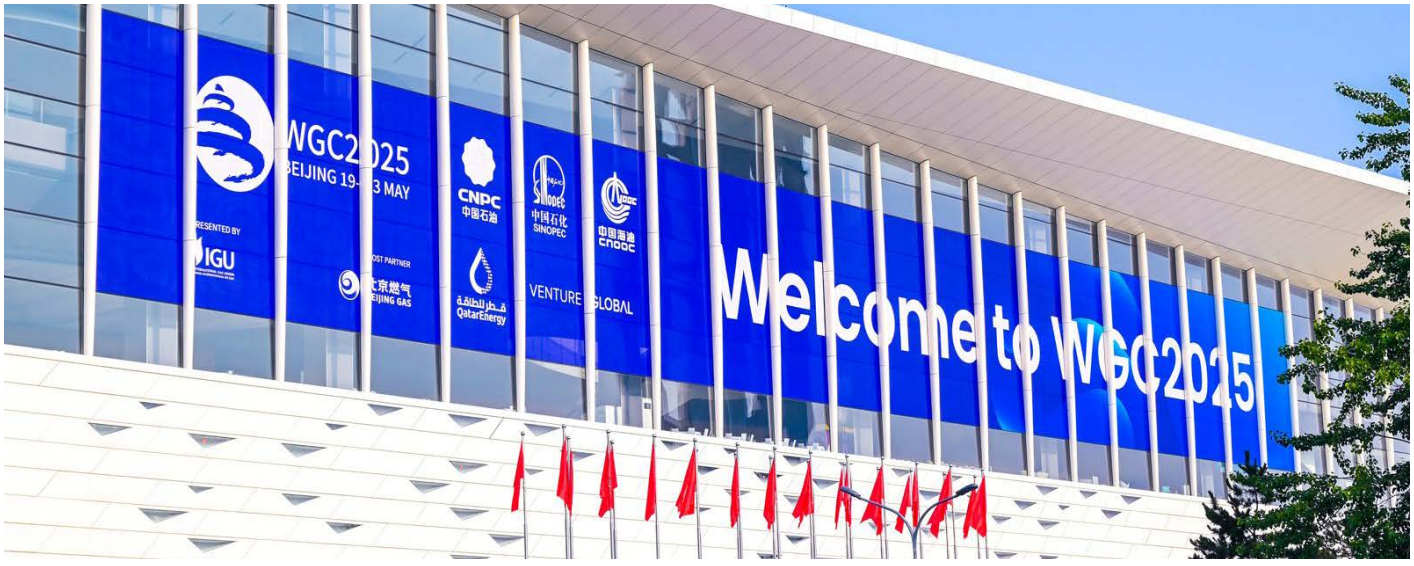
Social Media
Follow us on social media for event highlights and why not tag us when you post on social media

- LinkedIn: 29th World Gas Conference
- Facebook: 29th World Gas Conference
- Instagram: @wgc_2025
- Twitter / X: @WGC_2025
- WeChat Official Account *WGC2025*. Scan the QR code bellow to connect:

Connect, follow and join in the discussion that we'll be having over the course of the week. Remember to use the hashtags in your posts relating to *WGC2025*:
#WGC2025 and **#WorldGasConference**

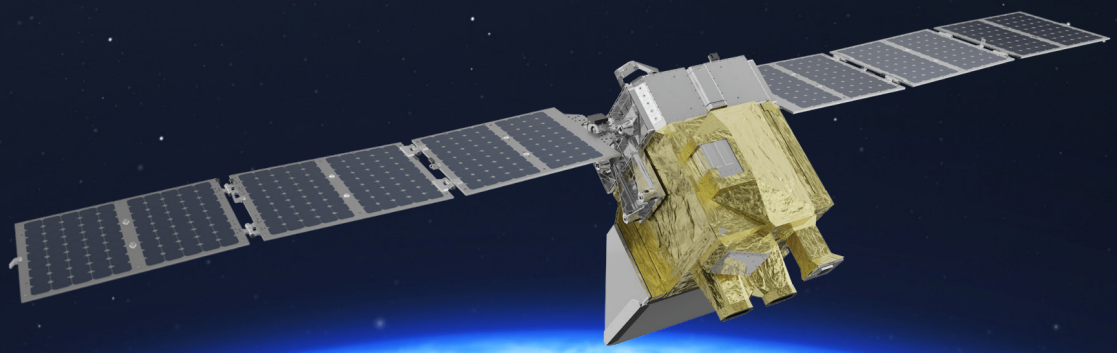
Wi-Fi
Free Wi-Fi will be available at the CNCC for the convenience of all WGC attendees.
Scan the QR code below, enter your name and ID number, and you will receive the Wi-Fi account and password. If you have a Chinese mainland mobile number, you can also connect to Wi-Fi by obtaining a verification code through your phone number. Please note that this account and password are for personal use only.

Mobile phones
Attendees will be asked to turn their mobile phones off or switch them to silent mode during the conference sessions.



The future of energy depends on methane mitigation.

能源的未来取决于甲烷减排



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SHANGHAI FIORENTINI: CHINA'S GAS INDUSTRY EMBRACES GREEN AND INTELLIGENT TRANSFORMATION

Zhu Shaoguang, Chairman of Shanghai Fiorentini Gas Equipment Co., Ltd., stated in an interview with Xinhua Finance that China's gas industry is embracing a green and intelligent transformation, with natural gas demand shifting from residential consumption to industrial and power generation applications.

"Driven by changes in demand patterns and the acceleration of energy transition, the global natural gas industry has undergone profound transformations in recent years", Zhu Shaoguang noted. He further explained that the significant expansion of global LNG trade, combined with continuous improvements in regulatory frameworks, increased investment in low-carbon technologies, as well as the widespread application of digital and intelligent technologies, has significantly improved the operational efficiency of gas pipeline networks.

Zhu Shaoguang also pointed out that China's natural gas demand is shifting from residential consumption to industrial and power generation applications, which is anticipated to boost demand for equipment such as gas pressure regulating stations and auxiliary machinery for gas turbines. Meanwhile, hydrogen blending and biomethane technologies will see accelerated deployment across existing natural gas pipeline networks. Investment in transforming aging pipelines will continue, with a particular focus on digital and intelligent transformation.

"As a 'transition energy', natural gas remains the primary source for peak load management and coal substitution in power generation, while its integration with hydrogen and carbon capture technologies is becoming increasingly close." Zhu Shaoguang stated that Shanghai Fiorentini is focusing on energy transition, with intensified R&D in hydrogen/biomass gas compatible equipment, and natural gas pressure energy power generation devices. The company aims to develop intelligent gas distribution solutions to drive the industry's digital transformation, while collaborating with public utilities to reduce pipeline leakage emissions, as well as enhance transmission and distribution efficiency.

During the conference, Shanghai Fiorentini will showcase a series of green and intelligent products, including gas turbine fuel gas skids, pressure regulating station systems for gas-fired power plants, intelligent pressure regulating stations, intelligent detection systems for gas regulating stations and hydrogen-blended natural gas stations. According to reports, the gas turbine fuel gas skid has been selected for the third batch of major first (set) technical equipment lists in the energy sector of the National Energy Administration. With the modular stacked-cabin structure, it has achieved breakthroughs in core technologies such as high reliability, low energy consumption, and continuous energy supply under extreme conditions of -52°C and seismic environments. This equipment has been successfully applied in Belt and Road demonstration projects, delivering secure energy transmission.

BEIJING GAS GROUP UNVEILS NEW ACHIEVEMENTS IN CAPITAL ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

Beijing Gas Group has upheld the core values of "Gas Integrates All, Benefiting Every Household," continuously exploring new pathways in clean energy development. Through specialised, large-scale and market-based natural gas development, Beijing Gas Group has grown into an integrated energy supply service enterprise, featuring a pipeline network exceeding 36,000 kilometre in total size, an annual gas supply surpassing 24bn cubic metres, and full coverage across the whole natural gas industry chain.

As the organiser of *WGC2025*, Beijing Gas Group has created an immersive booth at the core area of the exhibition, themed "Practicing Safety and Green Initiatives, Energizing Better Lives." The booth showcases five key sectors – the integrated business model sandbox, Beijing Gas Group stories, digital intelligence technology, natural gas trade and new energy – through which the "Capital Model" is vividly interpreted. This presentation systematically reflects the remarkable achievements of Beijing's gas industry in achieving leapfrog development, and highlights the company's critical contribution to global energy transition and ecological improvement.

In the future, Beijing Gas Group will follow a "1+1+4" business layout, including the core business of gas, investment in the whole natural gas industry chain, as well as four growth poles of natural gas trade, integrated energy supply, integrated energy services and technological equipment R&D. This layout will promote coordinated development between the core business and growth poles.

ZHEJIANG ENERGY GAS GROUP'S HYDROGEN-BLENDED NATURAL GAS PILOT PROJECT ATTRACTS ATTENTION

As an exhibitor at 29th World Gas Conference (*WGC2025*), Zhejiang Energy Gas Group Co., showcased its achievements and technological breakthroughs in the full natural gas industry chain at the event, with its hydrogen-blended natural gas pilot project and intelligent gas inspection system drawing significant attention.

According to reports, in 2024, Zhejiang Energy Gas Group successfully conducted combustion and separation experiments for China's first high-ratio (30%) hydrogen-natural gas blending in urban gas systems. This groundbreaking trial validated the technical feasibility of blending 3% to 30% hydrogen into natural gas and filled a gap in China's research on high-ratio hydrogen blending experiments using existing urban gas infrastructure.

Robert J. Johnston
Senior Director for Research at the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University

US NATURAL GAS GAINS GROUND AMID POLICY SHIFTS

THE POLICIES OF THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION HAVE IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS NOT ONLY FOR US LNG BUT THE DOMESTIC ROLE OF NATURAL GAS, ROBERT J. JOHNSTON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH CENTER ON GLOBAL ENERGY POLICY AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, TOLD THE WGC2025 DAILY.

"The key question is what will be the global gas price environment — how will gas compete with coal on one hand and renewables on the other. That will be the biggest factor in determining the role of gas in the energy mix and the energy transition going forward outside the US."

US natural gas is poised to play a larger role in both the global and domestic energy mix, driven by recent policy shifts under President Donald Trump and broader trends that predate his administration, Robert J. Johnston, Executive Director of Research Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University, told the *WGC2025 Daily*.

As part of Trump's pledge to "unleash America's affordable and reliable energy and natural resources," the administration plans to expand access to federal lands for oil and gas development and ease permitting and regulations for energy projects. A significant focus has been on lifting the pause on LNG export approvals to non-FTA countries, a restriction imposed a year earlier by the Biden administration. This policy shift is expected to accelerate US LNG exports, which are already set to double by the end of the decade.

GAS AT HOME

However, Trump's approach has broader implications for domestic natural gas supply. "Trump sees natural gas as an instrument to support the US national interest both domestically and internationally," Johnston said. "Internationally, that relates to geopolitical reasons and reducing the national trade deficit. Domestically, it means maintaining strong supply growth and low and stable prices that encourage economic development."

The administration's deregulatory agenda is expected to boost gas production, by supporting field development and facilitating pipeline projects, including in the Appalachian Basin, thereby alleviating transport bottlenecks. At the same time, scaling back regulation on gas-fired power plants could enhance the role of natural gas in the US energy mix, Johnston noted.

Beyond policy, structural shifts in the economy are also increasing natural gas demand. Trump's emphasis on reindustrialisation, including tariffs designed to bring manufacturing back to the US, could further embed gas in the energy system. Additionally, growing electricity demand — driven by electrification, artificial intelligence and the expansion of data centres — is expected to contribute to increased gas consumption. US power demand, which has remained largely stable at 4,000 TWh since 2010, is forecast to rise to 4,500 TWh by 2030, according to Rystad Energy.

"Whether Trump or Harris had won the election, you were going to have this renaissance in electricity demand growth, of which natural gas would be a big part," Johnston said.

While gas will play a central role in meeting this demand, the energy mix remains uncertain. The balance between natural gas, nuclear, and renewables has yet to be determined. "But the answer will probably be all of the above," Johnston said.

THE GLOBAL GAS PICTURE

On a global scale, natural gas demand will be shaped by its role in replacing coal, providing stable support for intermittent renewable energy sources and supporting economic development, Johnston noted. The extent of this demand will be dictated by price dynamics.

"The key question is what will be the global gas price environment — how will gas compete with coal on one hand and renewables on the other," he said. "That will be the biggest factor

"Asia and Africa will be key to determining the question of underinvestment in gas versus overcapacity, and their demand will be determined by the price."

in determining the role of gas in the energy mix and the energy transition going forward outside the US."

Investment decisions will hinge on this uncertainty, as the industry faces the risk of either underinvesting and causing supply shortages or overinvesting and creating excess capacity. "Over the next five to 10 years, there is probably a greater risk of underinvestment, but after that there may once more be concern about overcapacity," Johnston said.

China, as the world's largest gas importer, plays a critical role in shaping long-term demand. Forecasters, including CNPC's Economic & Technology Research Institute (ETRI), anticipate that Chinese gas demand will peak around 2040. Beyond that, growth would need to come from other regions.

"With their population and economic growth, certainly the potential is there in Africa and South and Southeast Asia," Johnston said. "But again it comes back to price. Will those countries be able to afford the fuel, and will they be willing to make policy interventions such as clean air rules and carbon pricing that might support gas in replacing coal?"

Natural gas could also serve as a practical alternative for countries facing challenges in expanding transmission networks to accommodate large-scale renewable deployment.

"Asia and Africa will be key to determining the question of underinvestment in gas versus overcapacity, and their demand will be determined by the price," he said.

For both suppliers and buyers, greater clarity on price trends and future supply-demand dynamics will be crucial, particularly given the 25–30-year payback periods for LNG projects.

FAREWELL PARIS?

While Trump's backing of natural gas is evident, his policies' impact on renewables, electric vehicles and other low-carbon technologies, including carbon capture and storage (CCS) and hydrogen, remains uncertain. However, Johnston noted that many within the administration recognise the strategic importance of CCS and hydrogen for the oil and gas industry's long-term viability.

"The jury is still out on CCS and hydrogen, but I think things like the 45Q tax credit will remain in place. I think they listen to the oil and gas, chemicals and heavy industries that are supportive of developing industrial hydrogen and CCS clusters," he said. The administration may also be receptive to direct air capture technologies for enhanced oil recovery, he added.

On the international stage, Trump's return to the White House follows the COP29 summit in Baku, which focused on climate finance and support for developing countries' energy transitions. There is a risk, Johnston said, that the administration may not uphold commitments made at the summit, given Trump's past decision to withdraw the US from the Paris Agreement and reduce foreign aid.

This uncertainty could hinder low-carbon initiatives tied to the natural gas industry. "Methane abatement programmes, carbon capture, renewable natural gas and clean hydrogen projects — these are multi-year capital-intensive projects, and when policy signals from Washington change, it's sometimes hard to maintain their momentum," Johnston said.

Despite US policy shifts, global adherence to the Paris Agreement continues, with most governments maintaining their commitments to net-zero goals. "And the gas industry wants to be part of that," Johnston said.

Even if Trump rolls back methane regulations, Johnston expects voluntary and market-driven initiatives in the gas industry to persist, especially due to pressure from European and Japanese buyers.

"The White House sends out an incredibly important policy signal," he said. "But there are other policy signals from elsewhere in the world as well as market signals that I think the industry will continue responding to."

The influence of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles on industry behaviour has been cyclical. "Whereas during the first Trump administration, shareholders in the private sector stepped in and filled the void left by lack of environmental regulation, and ESG-aligned companies were outperforming everyone else," he explained. "Then in 2021–22, the focus switched back to the affordability and reliability of energy," he said.

"Certainly ESG has been disrupted. But it is unfair to say ESG is dead," he said. "I think it's retooling and rebooting. It's going to come back in a different form, perhaps more aligned with traditional investment management and return expectations."

Johnston expressed his anticipation for *WGC2025*, both professionally and personally.

"I always enjoy visiting Beijing because it's an amazing city with great history, with an important role in the global economy and global political landscape," he said. "I learn a lot every time I go — getting a greater understanding of the Chinese perspective on global markets, including natural gas, is fascinating. It is also great to bring together different voices in energy from across the world."

Robert Johnston, Executive Director of Research Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University, will be speaking at the session "Gas in the Americas: Unlocking Market Potential" at 10:45 on May 22.

Farhad Ahrabi
President and CEO of Commonwealth LNG

COMMONWEALTH LNG CLEARS KEY MILESTONES

FARHAD AHRABI, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF COMMONWEALTH LNG, DISCUSSES WITH WGC2025 DAILY THE IMPACT OF IMPORTANT REGULATORY HURDLES THAT THE PROJECT CLEARED IN FEBRUARY, AS IT PREPARES TO REACH FID LATER THIS YEAR.

Photo: ***A rendering of the Commonwealth LNG project***
Source: Commonwealth LNG

COMMONWEALTH LNG ANTICIPATES TAKING A FINAL INVESTMENT DECISION ON ITS 9.5MN TONNE/YEAR LNG FACILITY IN CAMERON PARIS, LOUISIANA, IN SEPTEMBER 2025, WITH FIRST PRODUCTION EXPECTED IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2029. IT WILL HAVE FIVE 50,000-M3 STORAGE TANKS AND WILL BE ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE VESSELS UP TO 216,000 M3 CAPACITY. GAS SUPPLY WILL BE RECEIVED VIA A 4.8-KM PIPELINE CONNECTED TO TWO MAJOR PIPELINE SYSTEMS WITH SIGNIFICANT EXCESS TRANSPORTATION CAPACITY.

WGC2025 Daily: Commonwealth LNG has received conditional non-FTA authorisation from the US Department of Energy and received its draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission — two significant milestones for the project's progression. What else needs to happen — the project's checklist so to say, ahead of achieving your final investment decision targeted for September 2025?

Farhad Ahrabi: We anticipate receiving a FERC Final Order by late July, with Department of Energy (DoE) final authorisation, at approximately the same time. In the interim, we're finalising commercial offtake commitments for at about 8mn tonnes/year of capacity under long term sales and purchase agreements with the remaining estimated 1.5mn t/yr in merchant volumes. The Commonwealth export facility represents a total investment of approximately $11bn that includes the EPC price, overhead and financing costs, so key project financing initiatives are underway in parallel with this timeline.

How would you illustrate the importance of policy and regulatory certainty to drive investment in US LNG and unlock the country's export potential? What further changes can support export growth and US LNG's competitiveness?

Greater policy and regulatory certainty reduce capital risks and encourage project developers and investors to pursue opportunities of this magnitude and complexity in the LNG industry. The recent change in administration in the US has introduced much broader support for LNG development, culminating in the issue of the first conditional NFTA Authorisation for Commonwealth LNG project; the first in two years. Additional legislation has been introduced that would further streamline permitting that would ensure durability of the permits once issued. All of these are positive trends for the LNG industry. Here in the US, we are fortunate to have an abundance of a cleaner source of gas and LNG that can be developed at a lower cost than most other LNG producing countries to provide secure and reliable energy to our Allies whilst providing good paying jobs for the US workforce.

Globally, US LNG unquestionably has the capacity to displace coal, greatly reducing CO2 emissions rapidly and at scale as is the case within the US during the last two decades.

How do you see the US LNG position evolving in global markets over the next decade, and its contribution to energy sustainability, affordability and security?

The production and export of LNG is a clear opportunity to reassert American energy leadership on a global scale. According to S&P, increasing US LNG production and export capacity has supported an average of 273,000 annual jobs, and contributed over $400bn in US GDP since 2016. US LNG also replaced over 42% of the gas deficit during Europe's energy crisis brought on by the conflict in Ukraine. Globally, US LNG unquestionably has the capacity to displace coal, greatly reducing CO_2 emissions rapidly and at scale as is the case within the US during the last two decades.

Commonwealth LNG has taken a streamlined approach to project development, emphasising lower costs and faster construction timelines. What does that approach involve in practice and what differentiates your model from other US LNG export projects, and how does it align with market demand?

Commonwealth is pioneering an integrated wellhead-to-water strategy in partnership with Kimmeridge's upstream operating entity, KTG to deliver low cost, low-emission gas and LNG to a global market seeking supply from trusted trading partners. We are focused on delivering this critical energy source safely, reliably and efficiently.

Our approach features the reliability associated with use of standard design technology from world-class partners including Baker Hughes, Honeywell (Air Products) and Solar Turbines. Our selected strategy using large modular construction (each module about 9,000–10,000 t) minimises US Gulf Coast construction risk that provides more certainty on cost and schedule for all our stakeholders. I have recent firsthand experience during my eight years leading Cameron LNG and so appreciate the uncertainties and challenges when you must have about 12,000 workers on site. Partnering with Technip, who are one of the most experienced modular design contractors, also provides for a shorter construction timeline since we can do parallel working in site preparation while modules are being fabricated elsewhere.

How is Commonwealth LNG working to minimise the emissions footprint of the natural gas value chain? How does Commonwealth LNG balance commercial success with ESG expectations from investors and regulators?

Commonwealth LNG is supported by Kimmeridge Energy Management, an alternative asset manager focused on the energy sector. In line with our wellhead-to-water strategy that we are implementing in partnership with Kimmeridge Texas Gas (KTG), both Commonwealth LNG and KTG have committed to obtaining independent certification of our natural gas operations under the protocols developed by MiQ, the global leader in emissions certification.

Our pursuit of MiQ certification is representative of our dedication to sustainability and transparent reporting. Independent certification will provide comprehensive data on Commonwealth's GHG emissions performance. We also have several targeted initiatives to ensure our operations contribute positively to local biodiversity and habitat preservation.

We take pride in being a good corporate citizen in every community where our team members live and work. ■

Farhad Ahrabi, President and CEO of Commonwealth LNG, will be speaking at the session "What is the Future of Global LNG" at 09:00 on May 22.

Source: Commonwealth LNG

LNG 2026
Qatar • قطر
2-5 FEBRUARY

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Call for Abstracts Open

Submit to nine carefully curated themes across the LNG value chain

SCAN TO SUBMIT

SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT

Abstract Submission Deadline
29 May 2025

Damjan Krnjevic Miskovic
Director for Policy Research at ADA University's Institute for Development and Diplomacy in Baku

EUROPE OUT OF STEP AS WORLD SHIFTS TO ENERGY PRAGMATISM

GLOBALLY, THERE IS GROWING RECOGNITION THAT THE WORLD IS EXPERIENCING AN "ENERGY ADDITION" RATHER THAN "ENERGY TRANSITION" — A REALITY THAT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN OVERLOOKED IN EUROPE, DAMJAN KRNJEVIC MISKOVIC, DIRECTOR FOR POLICY RESEARCH AT ADA UNIVERSITY'S INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND DIPLOMACY IN BAKU, TOLD WGC2025 DAILY.

"To keep developing, we need abundant and reliable energy sources, and gas will remain a base-load fuel for a long time — declaratory climate targets notwithstanding."

Much of the world is adopting a more pragmatic approach to energy and climate policy, but the EU remains an outlier, Damjan Krnjevic Miskovic, Director for Policy Research at ADA University's Institute for Development and Diplomacy in Baku, told *WGC2025 Daily*. By pursuing what he calls a "maximalist green agenda," Brussels risks undermining its geopolitical and economic interests by locking in higher energy costs over the long term.

Following the global energy crisis that began in 2021, many countries have shifted focus towards affordability and security, after years in which sustainability often took precedence. This shift is expected to intensify under the second Trump administration, whose "Unleashing American Energy" agenda has already seen the US withdraw from the Paris Agreement for a second time and reverse several Biden-era regulations to accelerate oil and gas development.

A former senior UN and Serbian official, Krnjevic supports a growing view among energy experts: the world is undergoing "energy addition" rather than "energy transition." As S&P Global Vice Chair Daniel Yergin recently argued in Foreign Affairs, the transition will be more difficult, expensive and complex than previously thought. The world remains far off track to reach net zero by 2050, and rapid growth in renewables is supplementing — not replacing — conventional sources like natural gas.

"Last year saw record global output from wind and solar, but also record highs for oil, gas and coal," Krnjevic said. "Yes, the share of renewables in the mix will keep rising, but that's not the only important metric. The world will continue to consume more oil and gas — and more energy overall."

While most governments recognise this trend in their policymaking, the EU does not, he said. "To keep developing, we need abundant and reliable energy sources, and gas will remain a base-load fuel for a long time — declaratory climate targets notwithstanding."

The EU's 2022 REPowerEU strategy had projected a halving of gas consumption by 2030 from 2019 levels. Although demand has already fallen significantly, this has been driven largely by high prices rather than climate policy.

Krnjevic pointed to the EU's reluctance to finance new gas projects or support long-term supply contracts as a sign of its lack of pragmatic energy planning. This contrasts with earlier support for the Southern Gas Corridor (SGC), which enabled Azeri gas to begin flowing to southeast Europe in 2020.

At the height of the energy crisis in 2022, the European Commission signed a memorandum of understanding with Azerbaijan to

"Whichever developed country or countries decide to champion the adaptation approach will have a comparative advantage over the others, especially if they produce hydrocarbons, since adaptation leaves ample room for oil and especially gas to remain a base-load fuel and thus an integral part of the global energy equation well into the future."

double SGC supplies to 20 bcm/year by 2027, aiming to offset lost Russian volumes.

"Geopolitically, this could have been a slam dunk," Krnjevic said. "But the EU didn't adapt its regulations to make financing new hydrocarbon projects feasible. It didn't direct its development banks — the EBRD and EIB — to invest in what is not even a new gas project, but a straightforward extension of an existing one, nor did it signal to commercial banks that these are necessary investments. None of that happened."

While Azerbaijan has sufficient reserves to double gas deliveries, the 2027 target still lacks the sort of European financial support that would fast-track the expansion, he said. Instead, Baku is likely to sell incremental volumes at high spot prices, as European buyers remain "constrained by ideological considerations" to sign new long-term contracts that would secure lower-cost supply. "How this is good for consumers — for European households and industry — is beyond me," he added.

Krnjevic is sceptical that the EU can quickly reform its energy policy. Although some policymakers are pushing for change, entrenched bureaucracy hinders progress, he said. Abandoning the goal of phasing out hydrocarbons by 2050 would require a major shift. The tone-deaf speech by EU Commissioner for Energy and Housing Commissioner Dan Jørgensen at the early-April Southern Gas Corridor and Green Energy Advisory Council Ministerial Meeting in Baku speaks directly to this point, he noted.

"But for most of the rest of the world, that dream is already gone," he said.

At COP29 in Baku last November — labelled the "finance COP" — developed countries pledged to triple climate finance to the developing world to $300bn/year by 2035 under the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance. The funds are intended to support both mitigation and adaptation.

With the US now withdrawing from these commitments under Trump, questions arise over who will fund the pledge, however — a question that has become even more salient since Washington began its global tariff policy. Japan is likely to hedge its support, while Canada and other G20 countries may also scale back their contributions, Krnjevic said.

That could leave the EU and its member states shouldering the burden largely alone — at a time when it faces other financial pressures. The incoming European Commission has made re-industrialisation a central priority. A report last autumn by former ECB President Mario Draghi estimated the bloc would need an additional €800bn annually to revitalise its economy through green tech, digital transformation and defence investment. Since then, amid the conflict in Ukraine, the EU has proposed another €800bn to bolster its defence infrastructure. "Plus, they seem committed to fund the country's reconstruction," Krnjevic said.

"They don't have the money to fund all these initiatives and meet COP29 commitments without US support," Krnjevic said.

Further sapping efforts to phase out hydrocarbons, there is a growing global push to prioritise climate adaptation over mitigation, he added. While mitigation has historically received the bulk of climate finance, strong political pressure from developing countries at COP29 drove momentum for equal focus on adaptation. "Whichever developed country or countries decide to champion the adaptation approach will have a comparative advantage over the others, especially if they produce hydrocarbons, since adaptation leaves ample room for oil and especially gas to remain a base-load fuel and thus an integral part of the global energy equation well into the future," concluded Krnjevic. ■

Adnan Ezzarhouni
General manager for GTT China

GTT: LOCALISING AND DECARBONISING CHINA'S LNG SUPPLY CHAIN

GTT HAS SUPPORTED CHINA'S LOCALISATION OF THE LNG SUPPLY CHAIN OVER ITS NEARLY TWO-AND-A-HALF DECADES IN THE COUNTRY, AND SOME OF ITS RECENT INITIATIVES AIM TO DRIVE DECARBONISATION OF LNG AND ADOPTION OF NEW LOW-CARBON GASES.

Photo: ***Beijing Gas Group's Tianjin Nangang LNG terminal***
Source: Beijing Gas

One of GTT's flagship projects was Beijing Gas Group's Tianjin Nangang LNG terminal in Nanjing port, whose third and final phase was commissioned late last year.

French LNG containment system specialist GTT has come a long way in China since first entering the country in 2001.

The company is now partnered with five major Chinese shipyards, and three main EPC contractors, with the capacity to engineer containment systems for several dozens of LNG carriers annually. Additionally, it provides systems for LNG bunkering barges, LNG-fuelled ships and LNG storage units, and is developing solutions for carbon neutral energies such as ammonia and hydrogen.

"GTT's presence in China has expanded significantly. This growth reflects our commitment to supporting China's evolving energy needs," Adnan Ezzarhouni, general manager for GTT China, tells the *WGC2025 Daily*.

GTT prides itself on taking part in the construction of China's first domestically-built LNG carrier, the Dapeng Sun, delivered in 2008, through its first partnership with the Hudong–Zhonghua shipyard in Shanghai, Ezzarhouni said. Since then, the company has helped China develop a dedicated local supply chain for building LNG carriers. In order to meet the standards for GTT's containment systems, companies invested in building up China's own capabilities, to substitute imports of major equipment, he explained.

KEY PROJECTS

One of GTT's flagship projects was Beijing Gas Group's Tianjin Nangang LNG terminal in Nanjing port, whose third and final phase was commissioned late last year. The terminal features the largest membrane tanks in the world, with a capacity of 220,000 m^3.

"This posed unique challenges as it was the first of its kind globally, with no existing benchmarks," Ezzarhouni explained. "The main hurdles included supply chain complexities and construction challenges due to the project's unprecedented scale."

To overcome these challenges, GTT provided comprehensive support, including training and on-site expertise, while optimising the local supply chain to ensure the use of high-quality materials, he said.

"Close collaboration with Beijing Gas Group and top-tier engineering procurement and construction (EPC) companies like Huanqiu Contracting & Engineering (HQC) and Chengda ensured the project was delivered on time and with industry-leading quality, setting a new standard for large-scale LNG membrane tanks."

Featuring 10 storage tanks in total, the Tianjin Nangang terminal plays a critical role in providing energy security for Beijing, serving as an emergency peakshaving source of gas supply for the capital and in the province around.

GTT is currently involved in developing the world's largest LNG carrier design. QatarEnergy placed an order last year for 24 of these 271,000-m^3 QC Max vessels to be built at Hudong–Zhonghua, to transport LNG from the North Field expansion projects in Qatar. GTT is also pioneering by being the originator of a new ship type:

The Ultra Large Ethane carrier, with a capacity of up to 150,000 m^3, with eight of these first-of-a-kind vessels under construction with delivery in 2027.

"These vessels leverage GTT's latest technology, offering operational flexibility and efficiency," Ezzarhouni said.

BEYOND LNG

GTT's scope is not confined only to conventional energies.

"Our commitment to the energy transition goes beyond LNG as we are developing solutions to facilitate the transportation and storage of carbon neutral energies, such as ammonia and hydrogen but also green LNG," Ezzarhouni said. "Moving forward, GTT will continue to prioritise innovation, digital integration and strategic partnerships to drive sustainable growth in LNG and multi-gas sectors."

GTT recently entered into a cooperation agreement with China's COSCO Shipping and China Offshore, as part of a broader push to advance innovation and decarbonisation in the LNG and multi-gas shipping sectors. The partnerships aim to expand the use of GTT's membrane technology in LNG carriers, ultra-large and very large ethane carriers (VLEC and ULEC), FLNGs and FSRUs.

The scope of the collaboration with COSCO goes beyond LNG to also cover the storage of clean shipping fuels. GTT seeks to offer flexible solutions for vessels operating on multiple fuel types.

"The expected outcomes of this cooperation are significant. Firstly, it will enhance the technical capabilities of all parties involved, leading to improved vessel efficiency, safety, and environmental performance," Ezzarhouni explained. "Secondly, the partnership will accelerate the development of multi-gas vessels, positioning GTT and its partner as leaders in this emerging market segment. This cooperation is a crucial step in advancing the industry's decarbonisation efforts and ensuring sustainable growth."

GTT is also working on several initiatives to make the LNG storage, transport and use for propulsion more sustainable while enhancing operational efficiency.

At the Tianjin Nangang terminal, for example, the storage tanks based on GTT's GST® membrane technology were designed in partnership with HQC, to not only have increased capacity but also achieve ~25% reduction in the environmental impact.

In collaboration with Hudong-Zhonghua Shipyard, GTT developed the world-first NO96 SUPER+ containment system for LNG carriers, which lowers the daily boil-off rate to 0.085%, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Meanwhile the company's smart shipping subsidiary, Ascenz Marorka, provides advanced voyage optimisation solutions that enhance routing and fuel efficiency, contributing to lower CO_2 emissions. By integrating operational, regulatory and environmental factors, these digital solutions maximise efficiency while ensuring safe navigation.

"These initiatives underscore GTT's commitment to supporting the decarbonisation goals through innovation and sustainable technologies," Ezzarhouni said.

LNG AND CHINA'S ENERGY TRANSITION

GTT is confident of the critical role that LNG will play in driving China's energy transition.

"LNG emits about half the CO_2 of coal when combusted, making it a crucial transitional energy source in China's energy transition. This lower carbon footprint supports China's goal of reducing emissions while maintaining energy security," Ezzarhouni said. "To further support this growth, GTT is developing a more localised supply chain, qualifying local outfitters, Chinese shipyards and contractors. This localisation not only enhances China's domestic capabilities but also ensures the efficient delivery of advanced solutions, driving sustainable growth in the LNG sector."

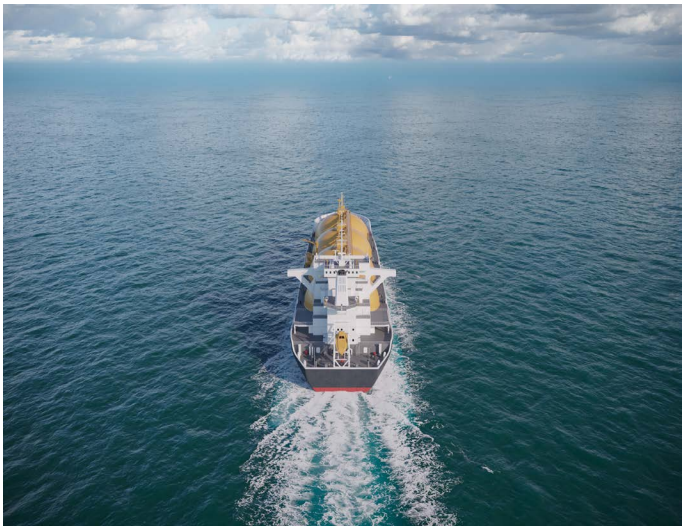
At the *WGC2025* conference, Ezzarhouni said GTT looked forward to engaging with both long-standing and prospective partners on a global stage.

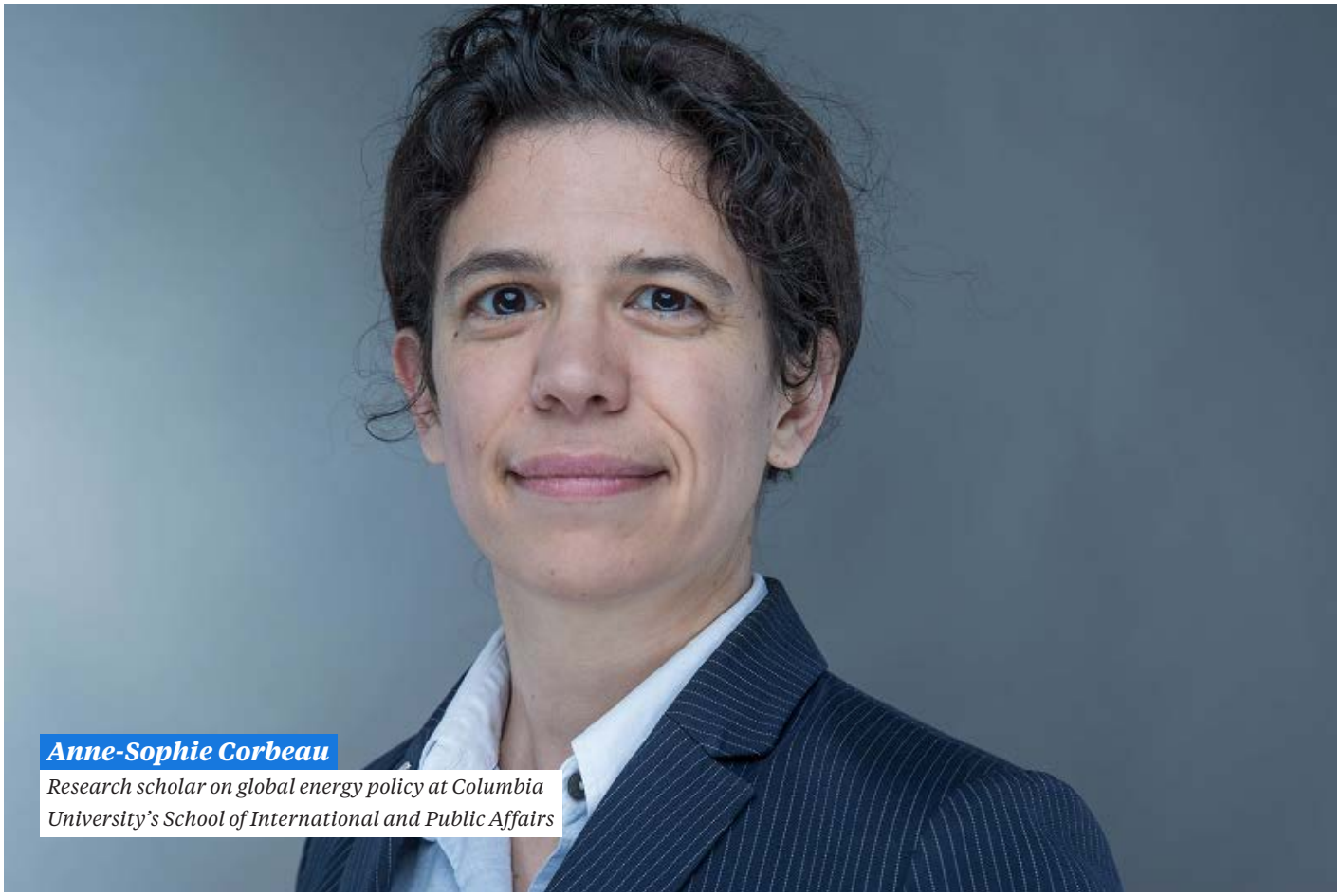
"We will focus on two key themes: the growth of Chinese shipbuilding capabilities, as well as the technology and market trends" he said.

GTT intends to explore ways in which industry players can work together to cut the carbon footprint across the LNG value chain, with an emphasis on improving energy efficiency and reducing both construction and operational costs.

"Additionally, we aim to highlight the versatility of our technologies for other cargoes, which is crucial given the various potential pathways forward," Ezzarhouni said."This includes exploring new applications in fuel tanks, gas carriers, and onshore storage, emphasising the need for flexible solutions as the industry evolves."

Adnan Ezzarhouni, General Manager for GTT China, will be speaking at the session "LNG Shipbuilding and LNG Transportatio" at 10:45 on May 22. ■





Anne-Sophie Corbeau
Research scholar on global energy policy at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs

HYDROGEN: FROM HYPE TO REALITY

THE WORLD HAS OVERCOME THE HYPE ABOUT HYDROGEN, AND IS NOW GOING THROUGH THE "TROUGH OF DISILLUSIONMENT," ANNE-SOPHIE CORBEAU, GLOBAL RESEARCH SCHOLAR AT THE CENTER ON GLOBAL ENERGY POLICY AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, TELLS THE WGC2025 DAILY. THE QUESTION IS WHETHER THE "SLOPE OF ENLIGHTENMENT" HAS BEGUN.

Photo: ***A rendering of the planned NEOM green hydrogen project in Saudi Arabia***

Source: NEOM

Perceptions of the role that hydrogen can play have evolved in recent years, amid growing awareness of the technical and economic challenges at play, Anne-Sophie Corbeau, Global Research Scholar at the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, tells the *WGC2025 Daily*.

"A few years ago, some people were ready to employ hydrogen absolutely everywhere, from current applications to cars and home heating systems. Now we have become more realistic. We have moved from hype to reality," she explained. "Hydrogen is a complicated molecule, not cheap to produce and transport, prone to escape, and should be used where it makes more sense against other decarbonisation processes such as electrification."

Even in hard-to-abate industries, though hydrogen is a good solution in some areas — especially those requiring high-temperature heat, as well as in chemical manufacturing and fertiliser production — it is less suited for low and medium temperature heat where electrification offers better efficiency.

THE COST CHALLENGE

The principal challenge is cost, particularly for hydrogen produced via electrolysis using renewable power, according to Corbeau.

"Many studies are pointing to the fact that renewable hydrogen's cost is still high and is not going to drop as fast as initially expected. Therefore potential offtakers are not in a hurry to commit to buying it," she said. The impact of these costs must be assessed in terms of final consumer prices. For instance, a green steel producer may charge a premium to car manufacturers, which would, in turn, pass on a modest price increase — "a few hundreds of euros" — to the buyer of a car. "Some consumers may be ready to pay the premium," she said.

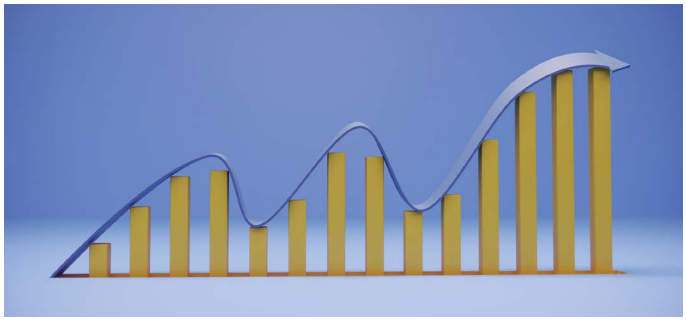
Another major complication is the timely development of systems to transport hydrogen. The lack of infrastructure, both within and between countries, is delaying project timelines and raising concerns among industrial players. "Many projects are being delayed by a few years because the infrastructure is not there and potential industry users worry about whether the hydrogen will indeed be available if there is no pipeline," Corbeau noted.

Here the state can play a key role, she said, drawing attention to Germany, which has ambitious plans to scale up its hydrogen network, backed by state support.

REGIONAL POTENTIAL

Regions with abundant solar, wind and hydro resources — as well as cheap natural gas and access to carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) — theoretically hold the most promise for clean hydrogen production. There is also growing interest in geological hydrogen, although reserves remain unproven. Yet potential does not always materialise into tangible projects. "Otherwise, a number of countries would be exporting LNG by now that aren't," she said.

According to a Hydrogen Council report published in September 2024, most hydrogen projects that have reached a final investment decision are in North America and China, with the Middle East and Europe trailing. The challenge for many projects remains securing offtakers. "This is an issue even in the US despite the generous



"What I like to ask people is whether we are before or after the bottom of the hype curve. We know we are going through the trough of disillusionment, but are we already on the slope of enlightenment. I get mixed answers. That tells me where the market is."

policy of the previous administration in terms of production tax credits: there is not so much domestic demand, but companies are interested in exporting hydrogen," she said.

POLICY SUPPORT

Hydrogen policies and roadmaps worldwide have been highly ambitious but often misaligned with achievable targets, Corbeau said. "There is no problem with being ambitious, but this becomes an issue if the targets are so high that you know this is unachievable, especially when one considers 2030 which is tomorrow in terms of the investment timeline," Corbeau said.

Many strategies issued between 2019 and 2022 were shaped by the hydrogen hype and must now be revised "asap with the updated knowledge and understanding of what can be done." She advocated for realistic targets to supplement aspirational goals, suggesting 2035 as a more appropriate planning horizon.

Initial policymaker focus was on supply, neglecting the demand side. "Now this is understood, and many policymakers are trying to find ways to help bridge the cost gap between clean hydrogen and unabated fossil fuel-based hydrogen," Corbeau said. Support mechanisms could include capital and operational expenditure assistance, contracts for difference (CfD) and carbon contracts for difference (CCfD). Other options include quotas, mandates for green products or public procurement policies favouring low-carbon goods.

Transport infrastructure remains a significant bottleneck. While Germany is actively supporting network development, as noted previously, Corbeau observed delays elsewhere due to lack of pipelines and logistical uncertainties.

Countries focusing on hydrogen exports also need to assess domestic demand. The main import markets will likely be limited to some European countries, Japan, Korea and Singapore. "China may not be importing hydrogen at all," she added.

RENEWABLE VERSUS LOW-CARBON HYDROGEN

Corbeau rejected hydrogen colour classifications, such as "green" and "blue" hydrogen, preferring to refer to them as renewable hydrogen, and low-carbon hydrogen produced from natural gas while employing carbon capture utilisation and storage (CCUS), respectively.

Has the role of low-carbon hydrogen from natural gas in developing a hydrogen market been overlooked? It depends on the country, Corbeau said.

"North America is absolutely leading in terms of low-carbon hydrogen developments, notably in the US thanks to 45Q," she said, referring to the federal tax credit for carbon sequestration. While a potential policy shift under the Trump administration remains uncertain, Corbeau believes support for CCUS is bipartisan and industry-backed, making significant changes unlikely.

In Europe, low-carbon hydrogen is still regarded as a transitional solution. "As of early March 2025, we are all waiting for the delegated act on low-carbon hydrogen in Europe," she said. Growing support from European countries and industrial players could see low-carbon hydrogen included in Renewable Energy Directive (RED III) targets.

Many countries in Africa and Latin America, as well as parts of the Middle East and China, are prioritising renewable hydrogen due to their renewable power potential.

Methane emissions from the natural gas value chain remain a critical issue for low-carbon hydrogen projects. "There will be even more scrutiny on methane emissions given its impact on the carbon intensity which is a key parameter to look at when looking at hydrogen. As I always say, we don't do hydrogen because of the colour, we do it to decarbonise," Corbeau said.

THE HYPE CYCLE

Reflecting on the market's current state, Corbeau questioned whether the sector has emerged from the "trough of disillusionment" often associated with hype cycles.

"What I like to ask people is whether we are before or after the bottom of the hype curve. We know we are going through the trough of disillusionment, but are we already on the slope of enlightenment," she said. "I get mixed answers. That tells me where the market is."

Anne-Sophie Corbeau, Global Research Scholar at the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, will be speaking at the session Natural Gas and Renewable Gases Solutions: Best Vectors for Energy Efficiency and Energy Transition to Decarbonate Industries & Gas to Power at 15:30 on May 22. ■

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