

Press release



GDF SUEZ: 50th anniversary of the first LNG commercial chain between Algeria and France

2 April 2015

This week, GDF SUEZ celebrates the 50th anniversary of the first commercial Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) cargo delivery. The LNG cargo was loaded at the Arzew plant in Algeria, and delivered to Gaz de France in Le Havre, France.

This first delivery performed by the LNG carrier Jules Verne, marks the birth of a new industry, that would revolutionize the world of energy due to the possibility to link, across the seas, the countries producing natural gas and consumer areas. Many technological innovations were required to control the liquid gas at -160° C in a marine environment, for transportation, but also onshore for its liquefaction and regasification. In total, 690 cargos have been delivered to Le Havre during the following 24 years.

Today in France, 3 LNG regasification terminals (Montoir de Bretagne, Fos Tonkin and Fos Cavaou), operated by Elengy, subsidiary of GDF SUEZ, continue to receive LNG from Algeria and various exporting countries. The partnership between SONATRACH and GDF SUEZ is the oldest commercial LNG chain, still active, in the world.

Gérard Mestrallet, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of GDF SUEZ, declared : "This 50th anniversary of the first LNG delivery, gives us the opportunity to recall the pioneer position of GDF SUEZ in the LNG industry, thanks to breakthrough technological innovations. Today, GDF SUEZ continues to be at the edge of innovation by adapting to the evolution of a global market full of promises and challenges."

With a capacity of 24,570 m³, the Jules Verne was engineered to transport the extremely chilled natural gas in self-supported tanks by the Seine-Maritime Shipyards and Workshops. This technology was soon replaced by the cryogenic membrane technology developed and improved by GTT, a subsidiary of GDF SUEZ, and is used today on a large-scale basis by the world LNG tankers fleet.

GDF SUEZ is a global LNG player and the main LNG importer in Europe. Today, with 16.4 mtpa, GDF SUEZ has the third largest LNG supply portfolio in the world, supplied from six different countries. It operates a large fleet of 14 LNG carriers under medium and long term charter agreements. The fleet is permanently optimized to satisfy GDF SUEZ' long term commitments and short term opportunities. The Group has also a significant presence in regasification terminals around the world.

About GDF SUEZ

GDF SUEZ develops its businesses (power, natural gas, energy services) around a model based on responsible growth to take up today's major energy and environmental challenges: meeting energy needs, ensuring the security of supply, fighting against climate change and maximizing the use of resources. The Group provides highly efficient and innovative solutions to individuals, cities and businesses by relying on diversified gas-supply sources, flexible and low-emission power generation as well as unique expertise in four key sectors: independent power production, liquefied natural gas, renewable energy and energy efficiency services.

GDF SUEZ employs 152,900 people worldwide and achieved revenues of EUR 74.7 billion in 2014. The Group is listed on the Paris, Brussels and Luxembourg stock exchanges and is represented in the main international indices: CAC 40, BEL 20, DJ Euro Stoxx 50, Euronext 100, FTSE Eurotop 100, MSCI Europe, ASPI Eurozone, Euronext Vigeo Eurozone 120, Vigeo World 120, Vigeo Europe 120 and Vigeo France 20.

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