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LNG Process Summary

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Abstract

Due to the increasing demand for natural gas in the world today, transportation of natural gas from different parts of the world has become a necessity. Liquefying natural gas provides a safer and cheaper alternative for transportation and also increases its storage capabilities. The liquefaction process requires natural gas to be cooled using various methods of cryogenic processes and also to be depressurized to atmospheric conditions for easier and safer storage.

This process summary reviews the key technology features and presents detailed process economics for the following LNG production processes:

- Large-scale LNG production by propane precooled mixed refrigerant process
- Large-scale LNG production by dual mixed refrigerant process
- Large-scale LNG production by cascade refrigeration process
- Small-scale LNG production by nitrogen refrigeration cycle process
- Small-scale LNG production by single mixed refrigeration cycle process

Given that feedstock prices can fluctuate greatly over time, a traditional process economics snapshot comparison for a particular time and region can often be misleading if applied to investment decisions. For investment purposes, using a historical process economics comparison over a long period of time provides a better basis. To address the impact of feedstock price fluctuations, this process summary includes an iPEPSpectra™ interactive data module that allows for quick comparison of historical process economics of competing technologies in several major regions from 2000 to 2015 on a quarterly basis. The iPEPSpectra™ module uses Microsoft Excel PivotTables and is attached with the electronic version of this process summary. The module provides a powerful interactive tool for comparing process economics at various levels, such as variable costs, plant gate costs, full production costs, and capital costs. An iPEPSpectra™ historical economic comparison provides a more comprehensive assessment of competing technologies and enhances investment decisions.
# Contents

## 1 Executive summary  
Introduction  
Technology  
Gas production and pipeline  
Liquefaction  
LNG shipping  
Regasification  
Process  
Licensors  
Developments in LNG technologies  
LNG train size  
LNG process drivers and compressors  
Environmental challenges  
Market overview  
Comparison of process economics  
Comparison of carbon emissions  
Historical economics comparison—An iPEPSpectra™ analysis

## 2 LNG production processes  
Pretreatment  
Acid gas removal  
Dehydration and mercury removal  
Liquefaction  
NGL separation  
Off-sites  
LNG process equipment  
Heat exchangers  
Compressors  
Compressor drivers  
Cooling medium  
Commercial processes  
Single refrigeration cycle  
Multiple refrigeration cycle  
Self-refrigerated cycle  
Cascade processes  
Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.  
Propane precooled mixed refrigerant (C3MR™) process  
Royal Dutch Shell  
Shell dual mixed refrigerant (DMR) process  
Shell parallel mixed refrigerant (PMR) process  
ConocoPhillips  
ConocoPhillips Optimized Cascade® process  
Axens  
Axens-IFP Liquefin™ process  
Linde AG  
Statoil/Linde MFC® (mixed fluid cascade) process
Single mixed refrigerant (SMR) process 40
Recent developments 43
Key process features comparison 44
3 Process economics 45
Economic basis of comparison 45
Feedstock prices 46
Energy and utility unit prices 46
Unit consumption and variable costs 46
Capital costs 48
Production costs 49
Environmental impacts 51
4 Market overview 53
LNG global supply and demand 53
LNG demand 54
LNG supply 56
LNG regasification capacity 57
LNG producers 58
Natural gas liquefaction capacity 58
5 Historical economics comparison—iPEP Spectra™ analysis 62
Feedstock prices 65
iPEP Spectra™ module flexibility 66
Margins (spreads) 75
6 Detailed process economics 78
7 Cost basis 88
Capital investment 88
Production costs 88
Effect of operating level on production costs 89

Tables
Table 1 LNG technology licensors 11
Table 2 Differences between plate-fin and coil-wound heat exchangers 24
Table 3 Technical specifications of LNG compressors 24
Table 4 Gas turbine performance specifications 25
Table 5 Cooling medium comparison air versus seawater 25
Table 6 Baseload LNG plant key features 26
Table 7 Air Products LNG technologies 29
Table 8 APCI LNG licensing activities 32
Table 9 Shell LNG technologies 33
Table 10 Shell LNG licensing activities 35
Table 11 ConocoPhillips LNG licensing activities 37
Table 12 Linde LNG technologies 39
Table 13 Liquefaction plants—PRICO® process 42
Table 14 Liquefaction plants—Linde processes 43
Table 15 Key process features comparison for large-scale LNG production processes 44
Table 16 Key process features comparison for small-scale LNG production processes 44
Table 17 Feedstock prices 46
Table 18 Variable costs of large-scale LNG production processes in the US Gulf Coast 47
Table 19 Variable costs of small-scale LNG production processes in the US Gulf Coast 48
Table 20 Capital costs of large-scale LNG production processes in the US Gulf Coast 49
Table 21 Capital costs of small-scale LNG production processes in the US Gulf Coast 49
Table 22 Production costs of large-scale LNG production processes in the US Gulf Coast 50
Table 23 Production costs of small-scale LNG production processes in the US Gulf Coast 51
Table 24 Carbon dioxide emissions for large-scale LNG production processes 52
Table 25 Carbon dioxide emissions for small-scale LNG production processes 52
Table 26 Primary energy shares 53
Table 27 Regional demand of LNG 53
Table 28 Regional supply of LNG 54
Table 29 Regional plant utilization 54
Table 30 Top LNG producers—2014 58
Table 31 Liquefaction of natural gas by region—2014 59
Table 32 Detailed economics—Large-scale LNG by propane precooled mixed refrigerant process 78
Table 33 Detailed economics—Large-scale LNG by dual mixed refrigerant process 80
Table 34 Detailed economics—Large-scale LNG by cascade refrigeration cycle process 82
Table 35 Detailed economics—Small-scale LNG by nitrogen refrigeration cycle process 84
Table 36 Detailed economics—Small-scale LNG by single mixed refrigerant process 86

Figures

Figure 1 Natural gas transportation cost 8
Figure 2 LNG value chain 8
Figure 3 Classification of natural gas liquefaction processes 10
Figure 4 Liquefaction capacity by type of technology (2014–20) 12
Figure 5 Global LNG supply and demand 14
Figure 6 Global demand of LNG by region 15
Figure 7 Global supply of LNG by region 15
Figure 8 Global regasification capacity of LNG by region 16
Figure 9 Capital intensity of large-scale LNG production processes 17
Figure 10 Capital intensity of small-scale LNG production processes 17
Figure 11 Production costs of large-scale LNG production processes in the USGC 18
Figure 12 Production costs of small-scale LNG production processes in the USGC 18
Figure 13 Carbon dioxide emissions for large-scale LNG production processes 19
Figure 14 Carbon dioxide emissions for small-scale LNG production processes 19
Figure 15 Large-scale LNG plant cash costs by process in the USGC 20
Figure 16 Typical LNG process block diagram 23
Figure 17 LNG train capacity trend 26
Figure 18 APCI propane precooled mixed refrigerant (C3MR™) process 30
Figure 19 APCI AP-X™ process 31
Figure 20 Shell dual mixed refrigerant process 34
Figure 21 ConocoPhillips Optimized Cascade® process 36
Figure 22 Axens-IFP Liquefin™ process 38
Figure 23 Statoil-Linde MFC® process 40
Figure 24 Single mixed refrigerant process 41
Figure 25 Linde LIMUM®3 process 42
Figure 26 Global demand of LNG by region—2014 57
Figure 27 Global supply of LNG by region—2014 57
Figure 28 Global regasification capacity of LNG by region—2014 58
Figure 29 Global liquefaction capacity forecast by basin 60
Figure 30 Global liquefaction capacity forecast by country 60
Figure 31 Production economics for large-scale LNG production using C3MR™ process at different capacities (USGC) 63
Figure 32 Production economics for large-scale LNG production using DMR process at different capacities (USGC) 63
Figure 33  Production economics for large-scale LNG production using cascade refrigeration process at different capacities (USGC)  
Figure 34  Production economics for small-scale LNG production using nitrogen refrigeration process at different capacities (USGC)  
Figure 35  Production economics for small-scale LNG production using SMR process at different capacities (USGC)  
Figure 36  Natural gas prices by region  
Figure 37  Production cost for LNG using C3MR™ process for six geographical locations  
Figure 38  Plant cash cost for LNG using C3MR™ process for six geographical locations  
Figure 39  Plant cash cost for LNG using DMR process for six geographical locations  
Figure 40  Plant cash cost for LNG using cascade refrigeration process for six geographical locations  
Figure 41  Plant cash cost for LNG using nitrogen refrigeration process for six geographical locations  
Figure 42  Plant cash cost for LNG using SMR process for six geographical locations  
Figure 43  Production cost for large-scale LNG processes (USGC)  
Figure 44  Production cost for large-scale LNG processes (Canada)  
Figure 45  Production cost for large-scale LNG processes (Saudi Arabia)  
Figure 46  Production cost for large-scale LNG processes (China)  
Figure 47  Production cost for large-scale LNG processes (Russia)  
Figure 48  Production cost for large-scale LNG processes (Australia)  
Figure 49  Production cost for small-scale LNG processes (China)  
Figure 50  Production cost for small-scale LNG processes (USGC)  
Figure 51  Production cost for small-scale LNG processes (Russia)  
Figure 52  Production cost for small-scale LNG processes (Australia)  
Figure 53  Production cost for small-scale LNG processes (Canada)  
Figure 54  Production cost for small-scale LNG processes (Saudi Arabia)  
Figure 55  Regional large-scale LNG plant margins by C3MR™ process  
Figure 56  Regional large-scale LNG plant margins by DMR process  
Figure 57  Regional large-scale LNG plant margins by cascade refrigeration process  
Figure 58  Regional small-scale LNG plant margins by nitrogen refrigeration process  
Figure 59  Regional small-scale LNG plant margins by SMR process