



HINTERLAND FOR GROWTH

by Jānis Mihelsons

One of the project's targets is to establish a competence centre in the Baltic Sea region. According to the plans, it will cover LNG competence, knowledge, training facilities and research infrastructure, while providing collaboration and a management model.

The research institution will be responsible for developing an action plan as well as establishing an agreement and management structure. The action plan will define the centre's strategy, while the agreement will define legal interaction between the partners, status of the network, and responsibilities.

The focus of the competence service package is put on the following issues related to LNG:

- storage and bunkering
- cryogenic and pressure technologies
- fuel for ships
- safety and operations
- maritime personnel
- project management and business modelling
- economy purchase and contract management
- road, rail, and inland water transport
- standards and regulations, as well as the legal environment

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The service package will be developed in cooperation between research institutions and the industry.

On top of that, in February 2017, the Motus Foundation will conduct LNG training at the Port of Gdynia. The case study will highlight what the procedures are when gas-bunkering a ship at port, together with the administrative and legal schemes. ■



DEVELOPING THE GAS SECTOR TOGETHER



Photo: Anthony Veeger

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Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) unites a lot of companies under one name, just to mention research, engineering, construction, or IT. For better communication, knowledge-sharing, as well as having a common, stronger voice representing their needs, the businesses quite recently came together.

In our region there are two LNG clusters and a new one will appear soon. The existing ones are the Danish and the Lithuanian, while the Polish will kick-off in March 2017.

The Lithuanians established their platform last year. Currently, it gathers as many as nine members: Klaipėdos nafta, Vakarų laivų gamykla, Klaipėda University, Lithuanian Maritime Academy, Klaipėda Science and Technology Park, Lithuanian Energy Institute, Klaipėda Free Economic Zone, as well as the American company, Emerson, and SGS – the second international partner in the cluster.

“Thanks to the implementation of the LNG terminal, which is based on floating storage regasification unit (FSRU) technology, Lithuania has become a part of the global LNG network. This area is particularly receptive to innovations, more efficient processes and optimal automation systems, reload, regasification, as well as other solutions. We are

glad that the Lithuanian LNG cluster makes a platform for this unique expertise and knowledge,” Mantas Bartuška, LNG cluster Chairman of the Board and CEO of Klaipėdos nafta, commented.

The Danish counterpart of the Lithuanian platform was established, similarly, to connect and promote sustainable growth in Danish companies offering and using LNG services, knowledge and technologies. The members that united under GO LNG Denmark are: Skangas, the Port of Esbjerg, Vos Logistics, Fjord Line, Kosan Crisplant, Unioil-Supply, Maritime Development Center, Fest Data, as well as Transportens Innovationsnetværk. The Danish cluster can first of all offer them membership in a marketing platform, an opportunity to grow their business network, numerous meetings, events, and projects, and finally knowledge and competence development.

Poland also sees the opportunities that a cluster can bring, and therefore, following

the Lithuanian and Danish path, key Polish companies associated with Liquefied Natural Gas made the decision to establish a country cluster, during the GoLNG Polska! Seminar, organised on October 18th by the Motus Foundation. The event’s agenda included the characteristics of the GoLNG project and its results for Poland, as well as focused on small-scale LNG (particularly across the Baltic Sea region), and the development of a Lithuanian LNG cluster. Additionally, LNG logistics and technological solutions were also highlighted.

The Polish LNG platform is to serve as an information exchange, and as a lobby group. Its kick-off meeting is planned during the Transport Week conference in Sopot, on March 7th-9th, 2017. So far, eight companies are interested in participating in the platform: the Port of Gdynia, the University of Gdańsk, Barter, Cryogas M&T Poland, Emerson, IM Solutions, TINES, as well as Remontowa LNG Systems.