

## **Gaz de France selects Chantiers de l'Atlantique to build a 153,000 cubic metre LNG carrier**

Gaz de France has signed a letter of intent with Chantiers de l'Atlantique (Alstom Marine) for the construction of an LNG carrier with a capacity of 153,000 cubic metres to be delivered in October 2005.

This new ship, designed to transport liquefied natural gas (LNG)\*, will be equipped with tanks which use the cargo containment system developed by Gaztransport & Technigaz, a Gaz de France subsidiary.

Following Gaz de France energy, ordered from Chantiers de l'Atlantique in January 2002, she will be the second LNG carrier with diesel-electric propulsion. This technique, new to this type of vessel, comprises four diesel engines running mainly on natural gas to generate electricity for the propulsion engines.

This new ship will join the fleet of seven LNG carriers already chartered by Gaz de France. She will be managed by its subsidiary Gazocean, and will be used notably to transport LNG from Egypt under a purchase contract for 4.8 billion cubic metres of gas per year from 2005.

*"This new order for an LNG carrier, the second in eighteen months, confirms Gaz de France's position as the leading European player in liquefied natural gas and illustrates our ambitious investment strategy, in France especially"* said Pierre Gadonneix, Chairman and CEO of Gaz de France.

*\* Natural gas can be transformed into a liquid by cooling to minus 160°C. For the same quantity of energy, the volume of liquefied natural gas (LNG) is around 600 times smaller than that of natural gas in gaseous form, making it suitable for transport by sea.*

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