

First Dutch LNG import hub expands truck loading capacity

GATE TERMINAL RECENTLY ADDED A HIGHLY AUTOMATED TRUCK LOADING STATION TO ITS FACILITIES, SERVICING THE DUTCH AND WIDER EUROPEAN MARKET.

Gate Terminal is the first LNG import terminal in the Netherlands, and has been operational since 2011. Located at the Maasvlakte on the North Sea coast, the terminal acts as an LNG hub. It receives, stores and regasifies LNG and delivering it into the high-pressure European grid, as well as loading it into different cargo sizes for transfer and bunkering.

Also servicing transportation market

Recently, Gate Terminal has expanded its truck loading station with the aim to meet a growing demand. Daan Velter, Plant Manager at Gate Terminal: 'Until now, gas was mainly used as industrial fuel and for household heating and cooking. Currently a new market for LNG is taking flight: the transportation sector.'

'Road and water transporters are increasingly switching to quieter LNG-fueled trucks and ships instead of the diesel ones. As a result, we are expecting to see the number of truck movements from our loading station increase to 6,000 annually.'

Tebodin was involved in the expansion of the truck loading station, one of many projects aimed at achieving maximum flexibility in Gate Terminal's operations.

Automation for efficiency

Tebodin Business line Manager Oil & Gas Maurice Houben: 'The existing truck loading station was not highly automated. Together with Gate we have been able to automate the second and third stations to the point where they need almost no manpower.'

Mr. Velter: 'Effectively, we are now able to load two trucks simultaneously with a single push of a button. This is the kind of automation that helps us invest proactively in a terminal that's ready to meet the demands of our rapidly changing market.'

A clear vision of the future and the ability to stay ahead of the market is in Gate Terminal's DNA. While the Netherlands has always been an exporter of natural gas, growth in demand and the finite nature of local natural resources means that gas import will be of increasing importance. Hence the initiative by Gasunie and Vopak to develop Gate (gas access to Europe) Terminal. ■

