

*A BP gas tanker has arrived from Abu Dhabi*

## The first gas tanker to arrive at the Bahía de Bizkaia Gas regasification terminal will unload 135,000 m<sup>3</sup> of LNG

The first tanker carrying liquefied natural gas (LNG) has arrived at the Bahía de Bizkaia Gas (BBG) regasification terminal. This gas, from Das Island in the Arab Emirate of Abu Dhabi, is to be marketed by BP and Gas de Euskadi to their respective customers. This first gas tanker, called British Innovator, will enable the start of the final commissioning activities at the BBG regasification terminal, expected to come into commercial operation later this year.

Bahía de Bizkaia is jointly owned by four partners: BP, EVE (Ente Vasco de la Energía - Basque Energy Board), Iberdrola and Repsol YPF, which each hold a 25% stake. The total investment in the BBG and BBE project amounts to 600 million euros. This first tanker, called British Innovator, was loaded with 135,000 cubic metres of LNG on 23 July last at the port of Das Island, belonging to the Arab Emirate of Abu Dhabi, with gas supplied by Adgas, in which BP is a shareholder. The processed natural gas, equivalent to approximately 18 days overall demand for natural gas in the Basque Country, will be marketed by BP and the company Gas de Euskadi.

As this is the first shipment of LNG to the BBG facility, the vessel will take about three days to unload and Bahía de Bizkaia expects to receive a total of six tankers to enable final testing and commissioning of the plant to be carried out. The facility is expected to be fully operational later this year. British Innovator is a gas tanker built using the latest in technology by Samsung Heavy Industries in Korea, and delivered to BP in March this year. It usually covers the route between Abu Dhabi and the regasification terminals at Cartagena and Huelva. The vessel has a total capacity of 138,000 cubic metres of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and has a length of 279 metres, a breadth of 43 metres, a depth of 26 metres and a draft of 11.3 metres.





It is necessary to emphasise that the termination and coming into operation of Bahía de Bizkaia Gas, together with its Bahía de Bizkaia Electricidad "sister plant" will favour a stable energy supply at competitive prices, will mean a decisive factor in improving the competitiveness of the Basque economy, and will introduce an important supply diversification factor to the entire European Atlantic Arc. The BBG regasification terminal has been built under a turnkey contract by the Initec, Technigaz and Sofregaz consortium (a temporary joint venture known as TIS). The total regasification capacity will be 6 billion cubic metres (bcm) or 800,000 normal cubic metres de natural gas per hour. The natural gas produced is destined for domestic, commercial and industrial consumption and for generating electricity at the BBE combined cycle plant, which has a power output of 800 MW and is already fully operational.

Bahía de Bizkaia has provided employment for some 2,000 persons during the construction phase and in the operational stage, even in 2003, BBG and BBE will create about one hundred jobs. Both facilities are situated in a strategic location at the Outer Port of Bilbao, on a surface area of 230,000 m<sup>2</sup>, which facilitates the arrival of LNG in gas tankers for its later processing and distribution by means of the network of gas pipelines.

The four partners in Bahía de Bizkaia are well known in the energy sector. BP is one of the largest corporations in the world in activities involving energy and chemicals; EVE is the public body appointed by the Basque Government to develop the Basque energy policy; Iberdrola is one of the two most important electrical utilities in Spain and Repsol YPF is the leading Spanish petrol, oil and fuel supply company.



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