

Equatorial Guinea nears second LNG train

By *Damon Evans*

Equatorial Guinea's state-owned company Sonagas expects to receive a master plan on 7 July that could pave the way for the country's second liquefied natural gas train.

The plan will detail the gas resources available for future development and volumes in excess of 7 trillion cubic feet would underpin a second LNG train, Sonagas' deputy director general Serapio Ntutumu said today.

Sonagas will also look at the option of sourcing gas from Cameroon and Nigeria for the terminal, Ntutumu said on the sidelines of the Next Generation LNG Conference Asia Pacific.

He added that Equatorial Guinea, currently sub-Saharan Africa's third largest oil producer, is seeking to diversify its resources by tapping into natural gas reserves, most of which are currently flared off from existing oil projects.

Ntutumu said the country is in talks with ExxonMobil to stop flaring gas from the Zafiro field and instead divert it to Equatorial Guinea's first LNG export terminal Punta Europa to help meet supply commitments with the UK's BG Group or alternatively for the proposed second train.

BG Group's contract with Equatorial Guinea is to buy 3.4 million tonnes of LNG per year for 17 years, starting late 2007.

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