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Small-scale LNG – Part three: Are ISO tanks a new standard?

THE SMALL-SCALE LNG SECTOR HAS A SET OF GOALS AND CHALLENGES THAT HAS BECOME SOMETHING OF A MANTRA: BUILD AGGREGATE DEMAND IN EMERGING ECONOMIES, CUT COSTS, SIMPLIFY VALUE CHAINS AND PROVIDE EVEN THE SMALLEST AND MOST REMOTE END-USERS ACCESS TO LNG.

ENGINEERING COMPANIES HAVE RESPONDED BY OFFERING AN ARRAY OF SMALL- AND MICRO-SCALE LIQUEFACTION, STORAGE AND REGAS TECHNOLOGIES. WHERE COMPANIES DIFFER IS IN THEIR APPROACH TO HAULING LNG FROM A LIQUEFACTION PLANT OR IMPORT TERMINAL TO CUSTOMERS THAT MAY BE HUNDREDS OR THOUSANDS OF MILES DOWN A ROAD, ALONG A RAIL LINE, UP A RIVER OR ACROSS THE SEA.

IN RECENT YEARS, A NEW CONSENSUS IS FORMING IN THE LNG INDUSTRY: A SOLUTION TO THE QUESTION OF SCALE AND FLEXIBILITY IN DELIVERY MAY LIE IN LIQUID GAS ISO CONTAINERS, WHICH OCCUPY THE SAME SPACE AS THE NOW UBIQUITOUS STEEL INTERMODAL BOXES THAT REVOLUTIONISED THE DRY GOODS TRADE IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE 20TH CENTURY.

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