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Nuclear phase-out uplifts Taiwan’s LNG future

Taiwan is the world’s fifth biggest LNG importer. As it proceeds to phase out its nuclear capacity, and with renewables expected to grow more slowly than planned by the government of President Tsai Ing-Wen, its LNG demand is forecast to continue growing, having already risen from 9.1 mt in 2008 to 16.8 mt in 2017.

With increased demand for LNG comes the need for new regas capacity, as Taiwan’s two existing terminals have been operating well above their nominal capacity. At the same time, gas provider CPC is looking to diversify its long-term supplies of LNG, with the Heads of Agreement (HOA) it signed with Cheniere recently a major step in that direction. But with former CPC customer Taipower now allowed to buy LNG directly from suppliers, what is uncertain is the share of Taiwan’s LNG imports each company will meet in the future.

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