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Go west: Grand Tortue FID draws new LNG frontier

Many in the LNG industry were surprised by the final investment decision (FID) on the first, 2.5 mtpa phase of the Greater Tortue Ahmeyim – or Grand Tortue – floating liquefaction (FLNG) project, announced by BP and partners on 21 December. In the months leading to the announcement, BP said time and time again that it was aiming for FID on the project, which straddles the maritime border of Mauritania and Senegal, but due to its apparent complexity, a 2018 go-ahead was seen by sceptics as unrealistic.

But if everything goes according to plan and first gas from Grand Tortue is supplied, as stated in BP's December announcement, in 2022, it would be one of the fastest new supply start-ups in the LNG industry's history. Also, with BP having agreed to lift the entire LNG output of phase one, Grand Tortue would represent yet another project where an IOC taking volume risk helped 'make it happen'.



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