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LNG bunkering: Fuel of the future, or long-term niche?

The enforcement of new sulphur emissions regulations for maritime fuels by the UN's International Maritime Organisation (IMO) in January – covering coastal waters off North America and Europe – underscored bullish shipping sector estimates claiming that LNG would become the industry's new 'super fuel'. But major ship-owners have so far shied away from the large upfront investments required to convert their fleets to run on LNG, opting instead for alternative fuels such as marine gas oil (MGO) in order to comply with the more stringent regulations. This has left only a small pool of growing demand for LNG in the maritime sector; the scope for growth is no doubt restricted for the time being, but, Gas Strategies asks, is it negligible?



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