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Gas Strategies Group

10 Saint Bride Street London UK EC4A 4AD

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T: +44(0) 20 7332 9900 W: www.gasstrategies.com Twitter @GasStrategies



Editorials

+44(0) 20 7332 9957 editor@gasstrategies.com

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FEATURE: Coal-to-gas switching – tipping the balance

Coal demand underwent a remarkable resurgence in the 2000s, with global consumption increasing by around 50% between 2000 and 2014. But global coal producers are now suffering financially as a result of a weakening market, with 80% of China's producers registering losses in 2015 and nearly half of US coal production coming from companies who have filed for bankruptcy protection. Nevertheless, coal's resurgence remains a significant obstacle to gas demand growth.

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