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Tokyo LNG Tanker to build the largest LNG Carrier in Pacific Region (Pacific Max)

Tokyo Gas Co., Ltd.
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Tokyo Gas Co., Ltd. today announced that Tokyo LNG Tanker Co., Ltd. (Headquartered in Minato-ku, Tokyo, President: Kazumasa Hidai), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tokyo Gas, signed a shipbuilding contract with Kawasaki Shipbuilding Corporation (Headquartered in Chuo-ku, Kobe, President Tomokazu Taniguchi) for a newly designed 177,000m³ tank capacity (175,000m³ cargo capacity) Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) carrier. Tokyo LNG Tanker also signed Heads of Agreement with Nippon Yusen Kaisha (NYK Line; Headquartered in Chiyoda-ku Tokyo, President: Koji Miyahara) for joint ownership (Tokyo LNG Tanker: 10%, NYK Line: 90%), and a time charter for 20-year term of the carrier.

This will be the eighth LNG carrier in Tokyo LNG Tanker's fleet. Like the existing LNG carriers of Tokyo LNG Tanker, the new carrier is expected to call LNG terminals worldwide. In particular, it aims to maximize its tank capacity while providing compatibility with major terminals in the Asia-Pacific region ("Pacific Max"), and to achieve 14% more capacity than the 155,000m³ design for providing more efficient transportation of LNG.

The four spherical LNG tank Moss-type carrier is equipped with Kawasaki Advanced Reheat Turbine Plant for propulsion, first time in the world for an LNG carrier to employ such system enabling 15% higher fuel efficiency.

After its completion in 2011, together with existing LNG carriers, the ship will transport LNG cargos from Northwest Shelf Expansion Project, Malaysia I and III Project, Darwin Project, Sakhalin II Project, Pluto Project, Gorgon Project and other projects. NYK Line is appointed to be the ship manager under the 20 year-term time charter.

By managing eight LNG carriers, Tokyo Gas Group intends to procure LNG not only through long term contracts, but also through short term, spot contracts and other innovative methods. This would contribute to lower LNG fleet costs for Tokyo Gas while increasing its LNG procurement flexibility. Tokyo LNG Tanker is also considering to expand its LNG transport business, and charter-in/ charter-out of LNG ships.

Reference 1 : Outline of Tokyo LNG Tanker

- 1) Company Name Tokyo LNG Tanker Co., Ltd.
- 2) Established March 5th, 1991
- 3) Registered Head Office 1-5-20 Kaigan Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan
- 4) President Kazumasa Hidai
- 5) Major Business Areas Owning and Charter of LNG tankers,
Marine Transportation of LNG and LPG
- 6) Capital 1.2 billion yen

Reference 2 LNG ships owned or operated by Tokyo LNG Tanker Co., Ltd.

		Ship Name	Tank Capacity (m ³)*	Type	Built	Ownership of Tokyo LNG Tanker	LNG Projects
Project-dedicated Ships	No.1	LNG Flora	127,000	Moss	1993.3	10%	Indonesia Badak IV
	No.2	LNG Vesta	127,000	Moss	1994.6	35%	
Non project-dedicated ships	No.3	Energy Frontier	147,000	Moss	2003.9	100%	NWS Expansion, Malaysia I, Malaysia III, Darwin Sakhalin II Pluto Gorgon others
	No.4	Energy Advance	147,000	Moss	2005.3	90%	
	No.5	Energy Progress	147,000	Moss	2006.12	0%	
	No.6	NB KSC #1600	147,000	Moss	(2008)	70%	
	No.7	NB KSC #1611	155,000	Moss	(2009)	70%	
	No.8	New tanker	177,000	Moss	(2011)	10%	

*Tank Capacity×98.5%=Cargo Capacity

[Reference3] The image of moss type LNG tanker

