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Three Laby[®] Compressors for LNG Receiving Terminal

Burckhardt Compression will deliver three labyrinth piston compressors to the Energia Costa Azul LNG receiving terminal, on the coast of Baja California, Mexico.

Burckhardt Compression received an order for three labyrinth piston compressors (Laby[®]) from BVT LNG Costa Azul S. de. R.L. de C.V., a joint venture of Black & Veatch and Techint, responsible for the engineering and construction of the Energia Costa Azul LNG import facility, owned and operated by Sempra LNG of San Diego, California, U.S. The equipment order for the Baja California, Mexico, receiving terminal will be executed by Burckhardt Compression (US) Inc. in Houston, TX, a subsidiary of Burckhardt Compression AG, Switzerland.

The Laby[®] has a unique ultra-low maintenance piston sealing design and is the ideal solution for boil-off gas applications. The gas-tight casing reduces gas emission and losses to the environment to zero. Delivery of the compressors will take place in December 2006. The start-up of the LNG receiving terminal is 2008.

Laby[®] compressors are used for liquid gas transport and storage as well as in the chemical and petrochemical industries. Laby[®] compress gases with no contamination and without oil, with a discharge pressure up to 300 bar (4350 psi), flow up to 11'000 Nm³/h (6500 scfm) and shaft power up to 2100 kW (2800 HP). Laby[®] compressors are extremely reliable machines with unexcelled availability, combining high performance with a unique cooling system. Burckhardt Compression's Laby[®] easily manages the compression of LNG boil-off gas at suction temperatures down to minus 160 °C (250 °F). The compressors will be used to re-liquefy boil-off gas which forms during LNG unloading of the LNG carriers and to maintain the LNG storage temperature at minus 162 °C.

Energia Costa Azul will process 1 billion cubic feet of gas per day (7.5 million tons per year). Located on about 400 acres of land, the site is 14 miles north of Ensenada, Mexico, in a remote, undeveloped area that is suitable for industrial use, including energy storage. When it becomes fully operational, Energia Costa Azul will be the first LNG facility on North America's west coast. It will help Baja California, Mexico, meet its long-term energy needs while providing excess capacity to the U.S. market.

Construction contracts for the LNG receiving terminal have been awarded and it is being constructed in accordance with Mexican and international safety standards. These standards meet or exceed most U.S. requirements.



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What is LNG?

Liquefied natural gas, or LNG, is natural gas that has been super cooled to -260 °F (-162 °C). At that temperature, natural gas condenses into a liquid at atmospheric pressure. When in liquid form, natural gas takes up to 600 times less space than in its gaseous state, which makes it feasible to transport over long distances.

About Black & Veatch

Black & Veatch Corporation is a leading global engineering, consulting and construction company specializing in infrastructure development in energy, water, information and government markets. Founded in 1915, Black & Veatch develops tailored infrastructure solutions that meet clients' needs and provide sustainable benefits. Solutions include conceptual and preliminary engineering services, engineering design, procurement, construction, financial management, asset management, information technology, environmental, security design and consulting, and management consulting services. The employee-owned company has more than 90 offices worldwide. Black & Veatch is ranked on the Forbes "500 Largest Private Companies in the United States." The company's website address is www.bv.com.

About Burckhardt Compression

Burckhardt Compression AG is a world leader in reciprocating compressor technology and the only manufacturer of a complete series of Laby[®] (labyrinth piston), process gas, and hyper compressors for numerous applications. Their compressors are used in the field of oil refining, chemical and petrochemical industries, air separation, as well as gas transport and storage. Burckhardt Compression's worldwide service network provides the full range of customer support services; from supply of quality compressor components over valve service to complete plant overhauls, from engineering to the fulfillment of extensive modular service contracts.

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