Project name: 3rd Interconnection Portugal – Spain

Project description:

The project has the designation 3rd Interconnection Portugal – Spain, of the natural gas sector.

The project is on the first List of Projects of Common Interest with the designation 5.4 PCI 3rd interconnection point between Portugal and Spain, is part of the Priority corridor North-South gas interconnections in Western Europe (“NSI West Gas”) under the sub-group Projects allowing bidirectional flows between Portugal, Spain France and Germany.

The 3rd Interconnection Portugal – Spain will connect Celorico da Beira to Zamora (pipeline Celorico/Vale de Frades) with a DN700 (28”) pipeline with a total length of 242/247 km, from which 162 km are in Portugal and 80/85 km are in Spain. The project develops in three phases in Portugal and in two phases in Spain, which include, incrementally, the correspondent capacity reinforcements in each of the countries.

1st phase of the 3rd Interconnection Portugal – Spain (project TRA-N-283 in Portugal and TRA-N-168 in Spain)

The first phase of the 3rd Interconnection Portugal – Spain is a pipeline with 162 km from the junction station JCT 13200-Celorico da Beira, in Guarda, developing to the North to Vale de Frades direction (in the Portuguese/Spanish border) and getting into Spain to Zamora with a length of 80/85 km. Throughout the pipeline in Portugal there are five intermediate stations and also a Custody Transfer Station (CTS) in Vale de Frades.

The first phase of the 3rd Interconnection Portugal – Spain will have an inlet capacity to Portugal of 75,0 GWh/d and an outlet capacity to Spain of 50,0 GWh/d. The infrastructure will start operation until the end of 2018.

2nd phase of the 3rd Interconnection Portugal – Spain (project TRA-N-284 in Portugal and TRA-N-168 in Spain)

The second phase of the 3rd Interconnection Portugal – Spain will install a compressor station (CS) in the already existing pipeline between the stations of JCT 11000-Cantanhe de and BV 11300-Mangualde, that with a power of 10 to 12 MWh, will increase by 35 bar the flows ranging from 500 000 to 550 000 m³/(n)/h. Reinforcements in the Zamora CS are also included on the Spanish side. These reinforcements will increase the inlet capacity to Portugal from 75,0 GWh/d to 107,0 GWh/d and will increase the outlet capacity to Spain from 50,0 GWh/d to 97,0 GWh/d. This equipment will start operation until the end of 2020.

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The third phase of the 3rd Interconnection Portugal – Spain is a second pipeline with approximately 67 Km length, parallel to the already existing pipeline between the stations of JCT 11000-Cantanhede and BV 11300-Mangualde.

The duplication of this part of the pipeline will increase the inlet capacity to Portugal from 107,0 GWh/d to 141,4 GWh/d and will increase the outlet capacity to Spain from 97,0 GWh/d to 141,4 GWh/d. This pipeline will start operation until the end of 2022.

The modular configuration of the project will fit the needs and the trend of natural gas demand in the Iberian Peninsula, both from the point of view of market integration, system flexibility and competition, and also from the point of view of security of supply.

The development of the new interconnection with Spain is associated with the strategic potential of the underground storages of Carriço in Portugal and Yela in Spain to store and withdraw the strategic reserves in case of an emergency scenario, particularly when a supply disruption occurs in both countries, as well as promoting a competitive market in the national natural gas system and also in the Iberian market (MIBGAS).

The 3rd Interconnection Portugal-Spain plays a major role in the market integration of the Iberian Peninsula, increasing the systems flexibility and helping to achieve the National and European energy policy goals through the following:

- Diversification of routes, promoting the access to new sources of supply;
• Enhancing the adequate coverage of the national territory with natural gas infrastructures, thus supplying the northeast of Portugal;

• Promoting the integration of the European network and the Iberian Peninsula (Portugal and Spain) developing the energy networks according to the principle of regional solidarity;

• Fostering the integration of the Renewable Energy Sources (RES) in the electrical systems’, providing the capacity needed for the CCGT to operate as back-up production units.

From the point of view of security of supply, the 3\textsuperscript{rd} Interconnection Portugal-Spain is necessary to meet the N-1 criterion of the Regulation (EC) Nº 994/2010 for the Portuguese natural gas system, considering the total failure of the most important supply infrastructure of the network - the LNG Terminal in Sines - during a day of exceptionally high gas demand occurring with a statistical probability of once in 20 years, as defined in the Regulation.

The 3\textsuperscript{rd} Interconnection Portugal-Spain contributes to a balanced architecture of the national natural gas system of both Member-State and creates conditions to promote and sustain the Iberian Natural Gas Market (MIBGAS). The project will allow the Iberian Peninsula to become a potential gateway for gas to come into Europe, taking advantage of its LNG terminals and its proximity to Africa (Mediterranean and Western) and to the natural gas producing countries.

**Contacts of the project promoters:**

Company: **REN Gasodutos, S.A.**

Contact person: Rui Marmota

E-mail: Planeamento.RNTIAT@ren.pt

Telephone: +351 219 688 200


Company: **ENAGAS, S.A.**

Contact person:

E-mail: DGER.DREG.COM@enagas.es

Telephone: +34 917 099 315

Web page: [http://www.enagas.es/enagas/es/MarcoRegulatorio/Proyectos_Interes_Comun](http://www.enagas.es/enagas/es/MarcoRegulatorio/Proyectos_Interes_Comun)
Public consultation

The project was submitted to a public consultation under the approval process of the National Ten Year Network Development Plan (PDIRGN 2013), promoted by the National Regulatory Authority (ERSE), to a public consultation and to a consultation of the entities with specific environmental responsibilities’ and of the Spanish entities’, under the Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the said Plan.

In 2015, the project will be submitted again to a public consultation under the revision process of the National Ten Year Network Development Plan (PDIRGN), according to calendar foreseen in the Decree-Law 231/2012, including the importance of the project for the energy sector, as well as through the Commission initiative “Your Voice in Europe” http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/, during the first quarter of the year and also under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) promoted by the Portuguese Environmental Agency (APA), and finally, under the technical permitting process conducted by the energy sector Ministry (DGEG).