

Tender for Study on a Common Approach for Natural Gas Storage and Liquefied Natural Gas on an All-island Basis

In accordance with the strategic objectives set down in the All-Island Energy Market Development Framework, The Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources (DCMNR) in the Republic of Ireland and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) in Northern Ireland, have agreed to award a tender to CSA Group Ltd. Consultants, 7 Dundrum Business Park, Windy Harbour, Dublin 14 to carry out a study on a common approach on natural gas storage and liquefied natural gas (LNG) on an all-island basis.

The reasons and objectives for completing the study are as follows:

- Under European Council Directive 2004/67/ EC of 26 April 2004 concerning measures to safeguard security of natural gas supply, and in the context of EU Energy Policy with regard to security of supply, the Departments are obligated to ensure that gas supplies for domestic customers are protected in the event of extreme weather conditions or partial disruptions to supply.
- The objective of the study is to assess the medium to long term position with regard to security of natural gas supply on an all-island basis, to consider the scope for a common approach on natural gas storage and liquefied natural gas (LNG), with a view to optimising that position, and to make recommendations accordingly.
- The study will have regard to industry views and to any existing capacities, as well as planned or proposed developments for gas storage and LNG facilities on the island of Ireland and in Great Britain. The study will also have regard to international security of supply issues, including the development of global natural gas and LNG markets and any EU policy directions on strategic natural gas reserves.

Given the strategic value of the study, it is proposed that CSA Group Ltd. undertake a consultation of key stakeholders. It is expected that the study will be completed in July 2007. If you wish to receive further information or comment on any aspect of the study, you may contact Fred Frazer, c/o of Energy Division, DETI, Netherleigh, Massey Avenue, Belfast BT4 2JP (Tel: (028) 90529272; e-mail fred.frazer@detini.gov.uk).