

California Dreamin' over first floating LNG terminal

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Numerical simulation of side-by-side offloading.



BHP Billiton has filed an application under the Deepwater Ports Act with the US Coast Guard and Maritime Administration along with an application for a land lease with the California State Lands Commission to build a \$550m LNG terminal off the coast of California. The floating terminal will be built in deep water about 20 miles from the coastal city of Oxnard and will supply 800m ft³ per day of LNG to California – about 15 per cent of the State's gas demand. BHP hopes to complete the project in 2008.

Based on the strong co-operation between BHP and MARIN over the years, MARIN was involved in the feasibility study of this first floating LNG import terminal project, focusing on the mooring loads, relative motions and related weather downtime. This simulation study meant the total system could be optimised to ensure the safe and continuous operation of this import terminal.