

A recent two-day seminar organised by MARIN and SIGTTO on LNG shipping operations attracted a lot of attention both from the industry and the regulators.

LNG seminar hits the right note with the industry



Titled 'LNG Shipping Interfaces: Ports , Terminals and Offshore Facilities', the seminar was organised in response to the growth in LNG shipping and because of recent SIGTTO publications on LNG operations in ports and on crew safety training issues.

Participation came from all sectors of the industry with oil companies, operators, port authorities and engineering consultants taking part. Aiming to inform participants about the nautical operation and safety aspects of shipping and transferring LNG, both offshore and in ports. The seminar facilitated interesting and highly valued discussions between these two 'touching' worlds; Enabling technologies from in offshore offloading next to safe and secure port terminal solutions.

Keith Bainbridge of LNG Solutions started the seminar with an overview of future offshore LNG developments. Bertrand Lanquetin of TOTAL then explained more about the trends in offshore LNG, such as the relocation of LNG transfer facilities as an answer to lowering port risks.

Maritime aspects of offshore LNG production, offloading and importing, were discussed by Bas Buchner of MARIN. He focused on LNG sloshing, heading optimisation, motion reduction, mooring options for LNG transfer and wave run up on Gravity Based Structures.

The missing link

Themed 'The missing link', a presentation competition was then held between different developers of offshore offloading systems for LNG.

FMC Sofec, Bluewater Energy Systems, SBM, Remora Technologies and APL, presented their con-

cepts which included approach & departure, connection & disconnection procedures, motions and loads in connected situation and the fluid transfer method.

The first day closed with two interesting presentations on the development and application of cryogenic hoses for LNG transfer by Technip Offshore LNG developments and BPP, in partnership with BHP Billiton and Dantec.

SIGTTO's new publications on port operations provided a framework for discussion on the second day. A keynote speech from Zeebrugge Harbour Master Alain van Mullem addressed the Zeebrugge approach to dealing with LNG carriers in day-to day operations. Gordon Milne from Lloyds showed the importance of good information flows to the public on LNG issues to avoid false image building.

SIGTTO General Manager James MacHardy then introduced the new publications. Recommended risk assessment studies in the publications were outlined in a presentation on a Safety Assessment in a mixed qualitative and quantitative approach by John Riding of MARICO. Johan de Jong of MARIN, then talked about a method to quantify risk levels in ports and for offshore installations.

LNG shipping developments and end-user requirements were discussed in a bid to define the challenges for port developers and supporting consultants on mooring issues. MARIN's Jos van Doorn discussed operational safety envelopes and nautical procedures. Otto Weiler

As the LNG business continues its rapid growth rate, these seminars are sure to provide a vital resource as was illustrated by the overview given by Bill Wayne from SHELL.

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