

Golden Pass LNG 'nearly there' as startup of Texas facility approaches

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LNG | Natural gas

First LNG expected late 2025 or early 2026

First of three trains is 99% complete

Commissioning progresses as startup nears

Golden Pass LNG is getting closer to its goal of starting LNG production "around the end of this year or very early next year," the developer of the 18.1 million/mt year export project in Texas said Oct. 14.

The first of three liquefaction trains at the highly anticipated project is almost 99% complete, Golden Pass LNG Chief Commercial Officer Jeff Hammad told attendees of the LDC Gas Forums' Gulf Coast Energy Forum in New Orleans.

"It's coming," Hammad said. "We're nearly there."

The Golden Pass Pipeline that will feed the terminal "is moving steadily toward commissioning," Hammad added, noting the recent completion of commissioning work on the supply line's compressor stations.

The developer on the sidelines of the conference declined to provide a more specific timeline for introducing feedgas to Train 1 or importing a cooldown cargo, which it [expects](#) to do in the fourth quarter.

Importing a cooldown cargo is relatively common in the startup process for a new facility and marks a major step before liquefaction operations begin. Golden Pass received approval in September from the US Department of Energy to re-export the imported volumes.

The approval could allow Golden Pass to load its first cargo using a combination of LNG produced at the terminal and re-exported volumes.

The LNG project, owned 70% by QatarEnergy and 30% by ExxonMobil, was originally scheduled to start in 2024. The energy giants are marketing their own volumes from the project.

Golden Pass ran into significant [delays](#) after the May 2024 bankruptcy of its lead construction contractor, Zachry Group. The bankruptcy interrupted the project before a July 2024 decision by a federal bankruptcy court cleared remaining contractors to carry on work.

But recent filings at the US Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, including an Oct. 14 approval to introduce hazardous fluids to thermal oxidizers, showed Golden Pass continuing to progress commissioning work at the facility (CP14-517).

Work at Golden Pass is progressing as LNG spot prices remain relatively high.

Platts, part of S&P Global Commodity Insights, assessed the Gulf Coast Marker for US FOB cargoes loading 30-60 days forward at \$9.65/MMBtu Oct. 14, up 11 cents/MMBtu day over day.

Golden Pass is preparing to start operations "a time when cargoes will be needed to replace the last bit of Russian gas squeezed out of Europe," Commodity Insights analyst Eric Yep [said](#) Oct. 1.

The impending startup is bearish for prices in Europe and Northeast Asia, occurring during the peak winter season in both regions, Yep said.

The Golden Pass facility started receiving small amounts of natural gas in late July, but the flows remained at a trickle Oct. 14, according to Commodity Insights data.

Overall US LNG feedgas demand was on track to reach about 18.2 Bcf/d on Oct. 14, which would mark a new all-time high just days after flows exceeded 18 Bcf/d for the [first time](#).

By the end of 2025, rising demand from Golden Pass and other new facilities ramping up along the US Gulf is expected to help push total US LNG feedgas demand beyond 19 Bcf/d, Commodity Insights analysts said in a recent short-term outlook.

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