

INFRASTRUCTURE AS A SECTOR ENABLE FOR INCREASED GAS PETETRATION

Transnational Pipelines

1

Essential For Energy Security Of India

Dr Ashutosh Karnatak

18TH SEPTEMBER, 2025

ASIAN GAS GRID

A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF ITS FEASIBILITY



2

Dr. Ashutosh Karnatak

► Historical Context: The Dream of an Asian Gas Grid

► In 2009, my doctoral research envisioned an Asian Gas Grid, connecting resource-rich countries such as Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, and China. The concept aimed to create a unified energy corridor across Asia. Here is the status of key segments today:

Segment	Approx Length	Status	Remarks
Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI)	~1,814 km	Stuck	Political and security challenges in Afghanistan and Pakistan.
India-Bangladesh	TBD	Not Done	Not initiated; holds potential for future collaboration.
Bangladesh-Myanmar	TBD	Not Done	Awaiting geopolitical alignment and bilateral agreements.
Myanmar-China	~2,500 km	Existing	Operational pipeline with robust capacity.
China-Turkmenistan	~7,000 km	Completed	China has built three pipelines importing ~50 BCM/year from Turkmenistan.

DETERMINANTS OF ENERGY

- **Availability : Domestic , LNG or Transnational Pipeline**
- **Accessibility : National Gas Grid and CGD network**
- **Affordability : Price Elastic – availability as per affordability**
- **Acceptability : Environment Friendly**

A long pipeline stretching across a field with a decorative orange arrow on the left.

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Countries Sourcing Gas From Transnational Pipelines

COUNTRIES SOURCING GAS FROM TRANSNATIONAL PIPELINES

Geography	Total gas required (consumption)	Domestic production	Imported via LNG	Imported via pipelines
Europe (EU-27)	326	38 (12%)	122 (38%)	168 (52%)
Türkiye	50	0.81 (1.7%)	14 (28%)	37 (74%)
China	395	230 (58%)	98 (25%)	68 (17.2%)

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Source : IEA

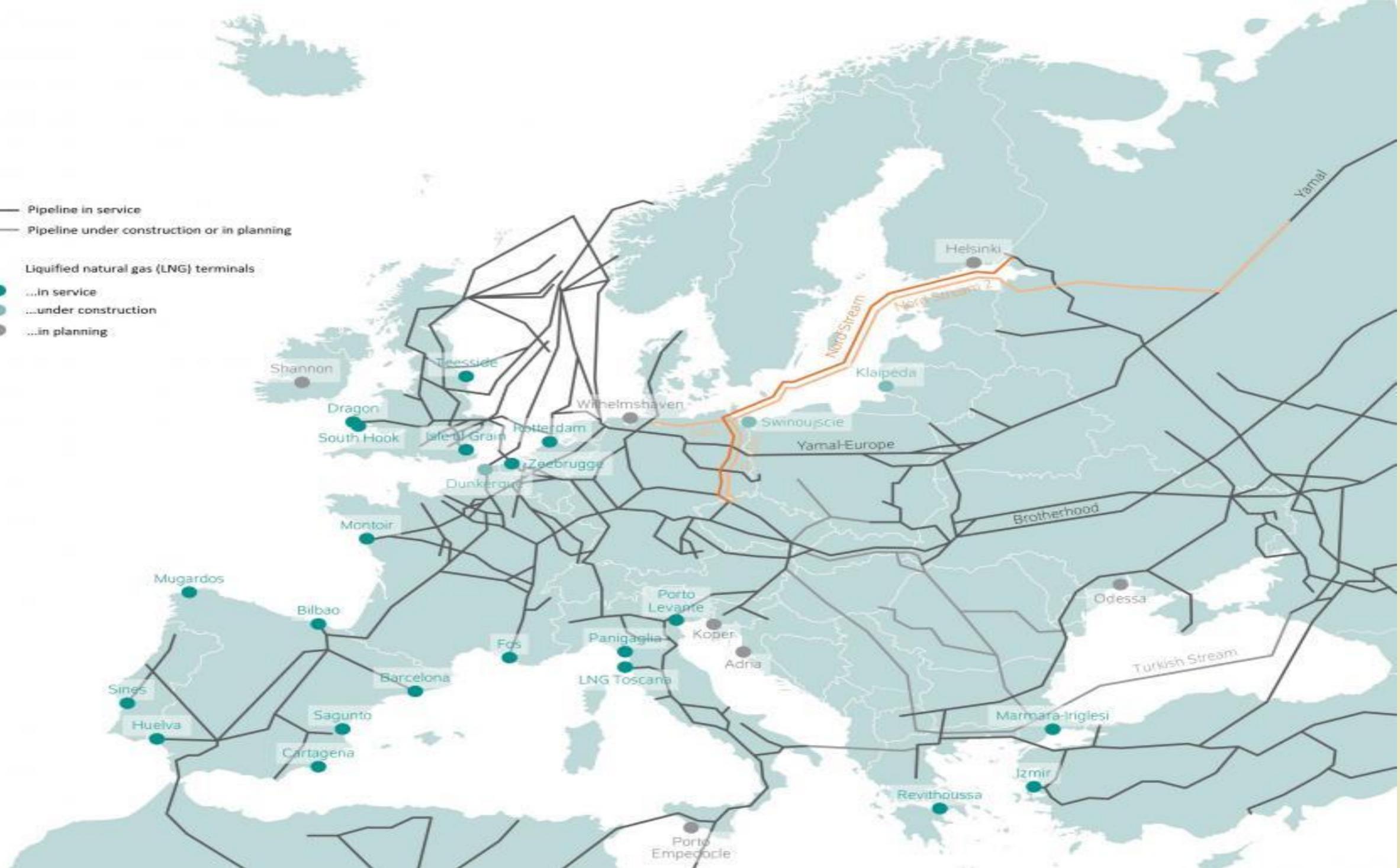
EUROPE GAS PIPELINE NETWORK

Dense network of pipelines criss-crossing Western, Central, and Eastern Europe.

Major pipeline arteries:

Russia to Europe (through Ukraine, Nord Stream, etc.), routes via the Balkans, pipelines from the Caspian / Southern Gas Corridor.

- Pipeline in service
 - Pipeline under construction or in planning
- Liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals
- ...in service
 - ...under construction
 - ...in planning



TURKEY PIPELINE NETWORK

Turkey acts as a transit point between gas-rich regions (Caspian, Russia, Middle East) and Europe.

Pipelines like Turk-Stream, other southern gas corridors .



BOTAŞ
BOTAŞ BORU HATLARI
BOTAS Pipelines

2021

- Ham Petrol Boru Hattı
Crude Oil Pipeline
- Doğal Gaz Boru Hattı
Natural Gas Pipeline
- BTC Ham Petrol Boru Hattı
BTC Crude Oil Pipeline
- Türk Akım
Turk Stream
- ↑ Mevcut Ham Petrol Akış Yönü
Current Crude Oil Flow Direction
- ↑ Mevcut Doğal Gaz Akış Yönü
Current Natural Gas Flow Direction
- CS (Kompresör İstasyonu)
Compressor Station
- PS/PT (Pompa İstasyonu)
Pump Station
- LNG Gazlaştırma Tesisleri
LNG Regasification Facilities
- Yer Altı Depolama Tesisleri
Underground Storage Facilities
- FSRU
FSRU
- Ham Petrol Depolama ve Yükleme Tesisleri
Crude Oil Storage and Loading Facilities

DOĞAL GAZ GİRİŞ KAPASİTELERİ		
	Gerektiren	Hedeflenen
Rusya - Türk Akım	47,3 milyon m ³ /gün	
BOTAŞ Marmara LNG Terminali	37 milyon m ³ /gün	
Egegaz LNG Terminali	48 milyon m ³ /gün	
Etiler Linyen FSRU	28 milyon m ³ /gün	
TANAP	17,3 milyon m ³ /gün	
Tuz Gölü Yer Altı Doğal Gaz Depolama Tesisi	28 milyon m ³ /gün	80 milyon m ³ /gün
BOTAŞ Doğalgaz FSRU	28 milyon m ³ /gün	
Azerbaycan	19,1 milyon m ³ /gün	
İran	28,5 milyon m ³ /gün	
BOTAŞ Sivas FSRU		28 milyon m ³ /gün
Silvan Yer Altı Doğal Gaz Depolama Tesisi	25 milyon m ³ /gün	75 milyon m ³ /gün

CHINA GAS PIPELINE NETWORK

**Pipelines from Central Asia (Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan).
China-Myanmar pipeline.**

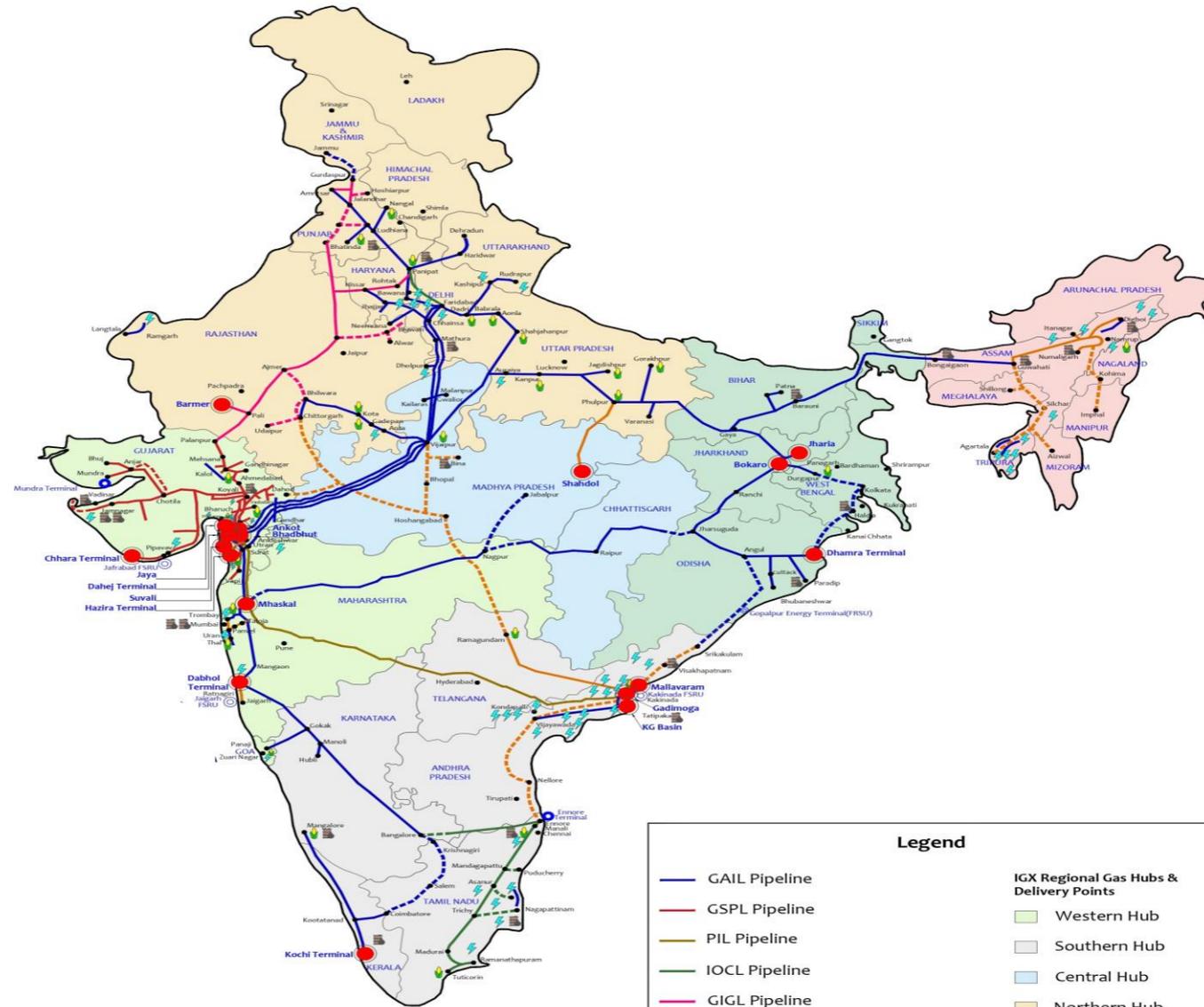
Russia to China (e.g. Power of Siberia and now Siberia -2) pipelines.



INDIA

NATURAL GAS INFRASTRUCTURE

As on December-2024



Not to Scale

Legend	
	GAIL Pipeline
	GSPL Pipeline
	PIL Pipeline
	IOCL Pipeline
	GIGL Pipeline
	Other Pipeline (IMC Ltd, GITL, RGPL, IGGL etc.)
	Upcoming LNG Terminal/ FSRU
	Power Plant
	Refinery
	Fertilizer Plant
	IGX Regional Gas Hubs & Delivery Points
	Western Hub
	Southern Hub
	Central Hub
	Northern Hub
	Eastern Hub
	North Eastern Hub
	IGX Delivery Point

Disclaimer: This map of natural gas infrastructure in India has been prepared as an illustrative and indicative material using information that is readily available in the public domain. Entities are advised to use the map at their own discretion. Indian Gas Exchange (IGX) takes no responsibility for the correctness or completeness thereof or any liability or loss derived due to reliance upon the map.

India's energy security strategy hinges on developing a **hybrid energy model** combining domestic resources, LNG imports, and transnational pipelines

Let us now delve deeper into the **potential of transnational pipelines**, which hold the key to India's future energy stability and growth.

Given geopolitical challenges, India must explore alternative routes:

- 1. TAPI Pipeline:** Efforts to resolve regional security issues and operationalize this pipeline should continue.
- 2. Subsea Pipelines from UAE or Oman:** Advanced subsea pipeline technologies offer a feasible and secure alternative for gas imports, potentially providing **75–100 MMSCMD** at affordable price

To meet India's growing demand for natural gas, a balanced **Hybrid Approach** is required, incorporating three key modes:

Domestic Production:

- **Strategy:** Intensify exploration and development of untapped gas fields.
- **Challenges:** Limited reserves and slow production growth.

LNG Imports:

- **Availability:** Ample global supply.
- **Challenges:** High transportation and regasification costs.

Transnational Pipelines:

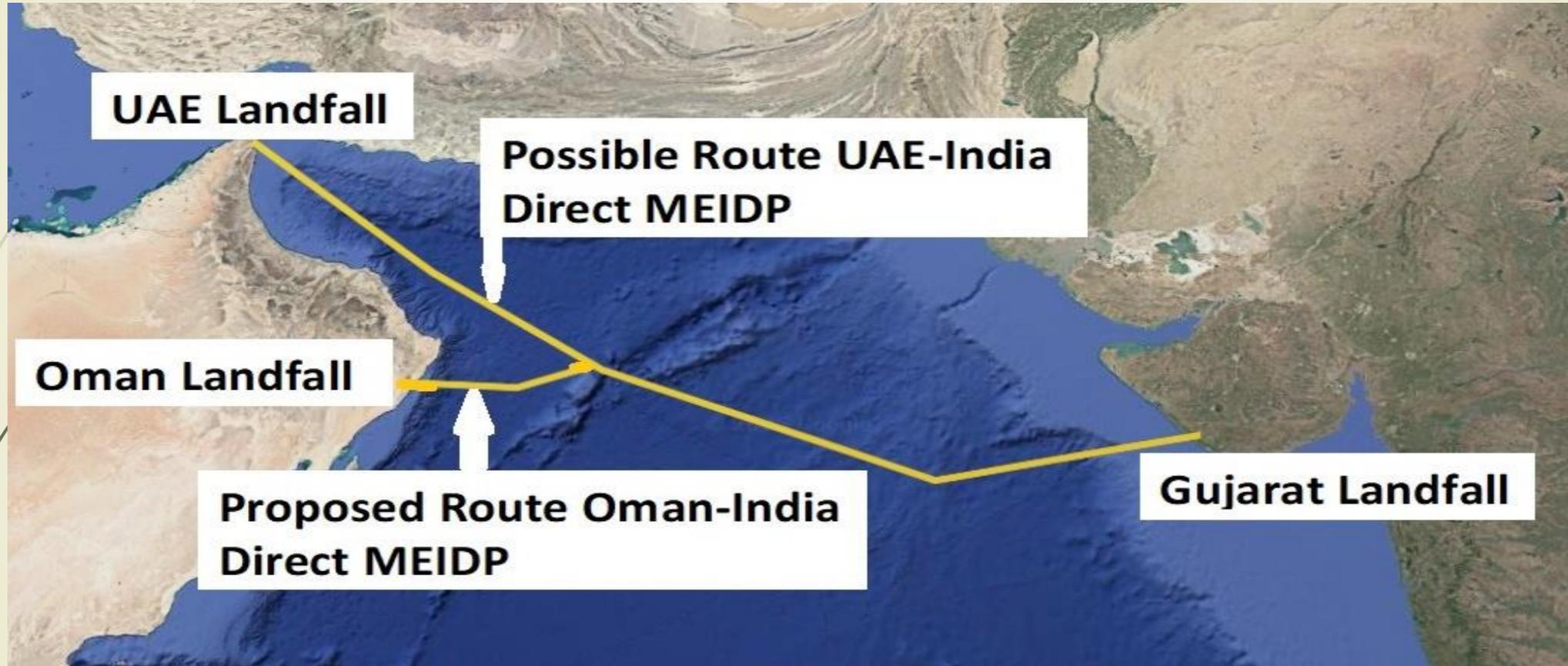
- **Priority Projects:**
 - TAPI (pending geopolitical resolution).
 - **Subsea pipeline from UAE or Oman (enabled by advanced pipeline technology).**

OMAN-INDIA SUB-SEA PIPELINE

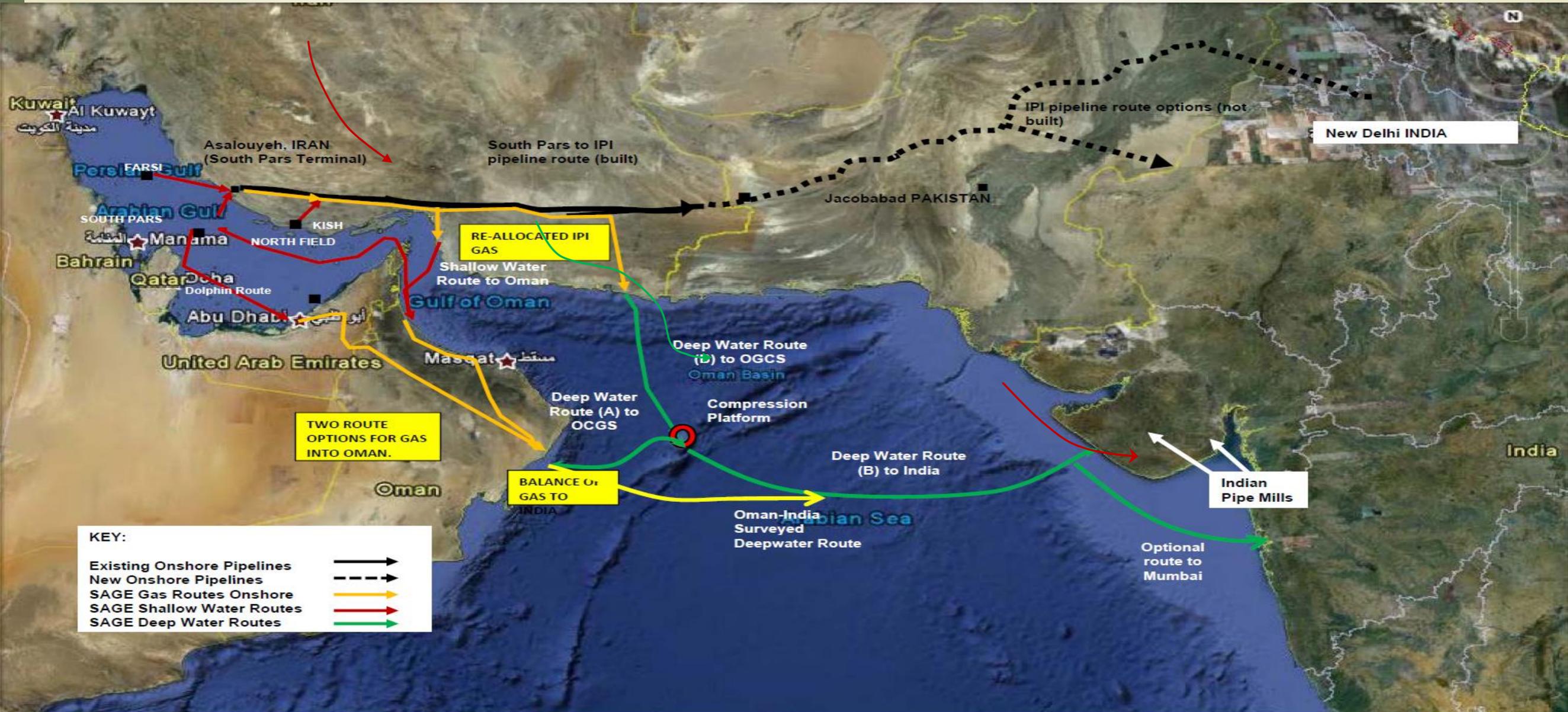
Courtesy : Mr. Subodh Kumar Jain M/S Siddho Mal Group for sharing the study got done by them

PROPOSAL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A TRANSNATIONAL GAS PIPELINE (MEIDP) TO MEET THE RISING NATIONAL ENERGY DEMAND

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MEIDP | GAS ROUTES TO INDIA



MEIDP | PROJECT VISION

Project	Middle East to India Deep-Water Gas Pipeline (MEIDP)
Project Developer	South Asia Gas Enterprise Pvt Ltd (SAGE), part of the Siddhomal Group The Group has over 50 years of experience in the Indian industry and a special focus in Project Development in Oman
Proposal	Development of an Energy Corridor for transportation of Natural Gas from Middle East to India by the safest, most economical and reliable means (avoiding Strait of Hormuz)
Proposed Route	Middle East Landfall (UAE-Fujairah/Oman) to India Landfall (Gujarat), via the Arabian Sea
Common Carrier	The pipeline will be laid as a "Common Carrier" pipeline whereby SAGE will be the Gas Transporter and will be paid a Tariff for pipeline use
Tri-Partite Agreement	Gas Buyers & Gas Sellers will negotiate the Long-Term Gas Supply Contract along with MEIDP-SPV in a Tri-Partite Framework Agreement
Global Consortium	SAGE has been working on the Project with Global Consortium - has already invested over \$20 Million on the MEIDP Project

MEIDP | PROJECT DETAILS

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Start Point	UAE (Fujairah) or Oman (Both are Outside of the Strait of Hormuz)
End Point	Near Porbandar (South Gujarat), India
Throughput	31.1 MMSCMD (~8.6 MMTPA)
Inlet Pressure	400 barg
Diameter	28" ID- till ~2200m water depth, 24" ID from ~2200m to 3420m
Wall Thickness	32.9 – 40.5mm WT (DNVGL ST-F101)
Steel Grade	DNV 485 Grade Carbon Steel (API X70 Equivalent)
Max. Depth	3420 m
Length	1200 - 1598 km
Steel Tonnage	800,000 tonnes (approx.)
Implementation Period	5 years (on Fast Track)
Pipeline Laying Time	2 years
Estimated Cost	\$ 7.36 Billion from UAE (start point) \$ 5.50 Billion from Oman (start point)

Powering Viksit Bharat 2047

- Our Vision for '**Viksit Bharat by 2047**' requires adequate energy to sustain India's growth trajectory.
- The Indian Government aims to increase the share of natural gas to **15% of the Energy Mix by 2030**, with majority of the demand being driven by 3 key sectors – **Power, Fertilizer and City Gas Distribution**.
- **Potential natural gas demand is projected at ~600/700 MMSCMD by 2030.**

- **SAGE is proposing to construct an international energy corridor MEIDP - a Deep-Water Transnational Gas Pipeline from Middle East (UAE-Fujairah or Oman as two possible start points) to India via the Arabian Sea.**
 - ❑ **Capacity: 31.1 MMSCMD, Length: 1200- 1598 km, 28”-24” inch diameter & Max depth: 3,420 m**
- **Technological Feasibility of MEIDP has established by EIL, DNV-GL & Peritus.**
 - ❑ **Vessels capable of installing pipelines for the MEIDP Project are available (from All-seas and Saipem).**
 - ❑ **Indian and European pipe mills are capable of manufacturing pipeline as per the MEIDP dimensions & specification, as well as for the prequalification and ring collapse testing trials.**
 - ❑ **Preliminary Engineering & Cost Estimate Study has been concluded by Peritus International in March'2023.**
 - ❑ **“As-Built” Project Cost estimate for Dual ID is \$7.36 Billion (Debt: Equity Ratio 2:1)**

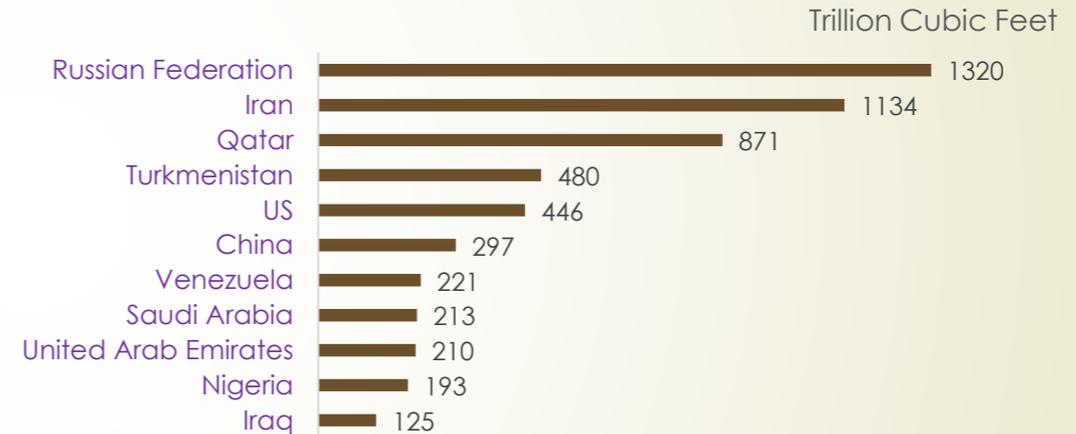
- **Levelized Tariff of USD 2.37/ MMBTU, based on Target Equity IRR of 12%**
- **Levelized Tariff from Oman to India is \$ 1.79/ MMBTU**
- **Considering LNG- Liquefaction, Transportation & Re-Gasification costs of \$4.5-5.0/ MMBtu,**
- **Gas via the MEIDP pipeline will be more economical by \$2.0–2.5/MMBtu in comparison to R-LNG. Estimated annual NATIONAL savings of an estimated \$1 Billion.**
- **MEIDP mitigates the geopolitical risks associated with overland pipelines and is strategically positioned outside Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea.**

MEIDP | INDIA'S DEMAND & AVAILABILITY OF MULTIPLE SUPPLY CHANNELS

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- **Availability of Gas**
 - ❑ **Over 2,000 TCF of Natural Gas** is held by the countries with which India has trading relationships
 - ❑ **New Gas finds** in UAE and Saudi Arabia
 - ❑ **Gas Rich Middle East Countries** looking for **new export markets**

Largest Proved Natural Gas Reserves holders



India needs natural gas from multiple sources including Domestic production, LNG and Transnational Gas Pipeline to meet its Energy Security and Vision of 'Viksit Bharat by 2047'.

RLNG and Transnational Gas Pipelines

- **RLNG** : Liquefaction – Transportation – Regasification of Gas attributes extra cost in the range of ~USD 2.0 – 4.0/MMBtu
- Transnational Gas Pipeline can act as a catalyst in the development of a permanent International Gas & Energy Corridor

MEIDP Pipeline Tariff – Fujairah (Start Point)		RLNG Liquefaction and Transportation	
Particulars	Pipeline Tariff	Particulars	Contracted Tariff (USD/MMBtu)
Pipeline Tariff	2.37	Liquefaction Cost*	2.96-4.73
		Transportation Cost*	0.67-1.60
		Re-Gasification Cost*	0.82
Transportation Cost	2.37		4.44-7.15

Gas from MEIDP pipeline expected to be cheaper by ~USD 2.0–4.0/MMBtu compared to R-LNG

LNG Value Chain (Liquefaction – Transportation – Regasification) adds extra cost to the final landfall price

*Source: US – Energy Information Administration (EIA) Peritus International Limited
 Note: Assuming Gas price at source is same for LNG v/s MEIDP

Affordability - MEIDP v/s Alternate Fuels in 3 Key Sectors

Particulars	Alternate Fuel	Competitive Gas Price Range (USD/MMBtu)
Power	Imported Coal	9-10
	Domestic Coal	5-6
	Gas Based	6-7
Fertilizer	Domestic Gas*	8-14
CGD- Industrial	Naphtha	16-25
	FO	12-18
	LDO	16-22

Source: Industry Research

* As per New Urea Policy 2012, price of LNG is pass-through for new Urea plants and the difference between the selling price and the cost of production at imported LNG price is reimbursed by the government as subsidy.

Considering the savings of USD 2-4 /MMBtu over R-LNG, MEIDP can provide Long-Term Supply of Gas at affordable price for Power, Fertilizer & CGD Sectors.

The price matrix will change with a premium on cleaner sources of energy, such as gas, as climate pressures mount.

RLNG and Transnational Gas Pipelines

- Transnational Gas Pipeline can act as a catalyst in the development of a permanent International Gas/Energy Corridor
- RLNG : Liquefaction – Transportation – Regasification of Gas attributes extra cost ~USD 2.0 /mmbtu (USD/mmbtu)

MEIDP Pipeline Tariff – Fujairah Case		RLNG Liquefaction and Transportation	
Particulars	Pipeline Tariff	Particulars	Contracted Tariff
Pipeline Tariff	2.37	Liquefaction Cost*	2.96
		Transportation Cost*	0.67
		Re-Gasification Cost*	0.82
Transportation Cost	2.37		4.44

*Source: Peritus International Limited

Note: Assuming Gas price at source is same for LNG v/s MEIDP

Gas from MEIDP pipeline expected to be cheaper by ~USD 2.0 mmbtu compared to R-LNG



“With the right vessel, as you go deeper it gets easier”

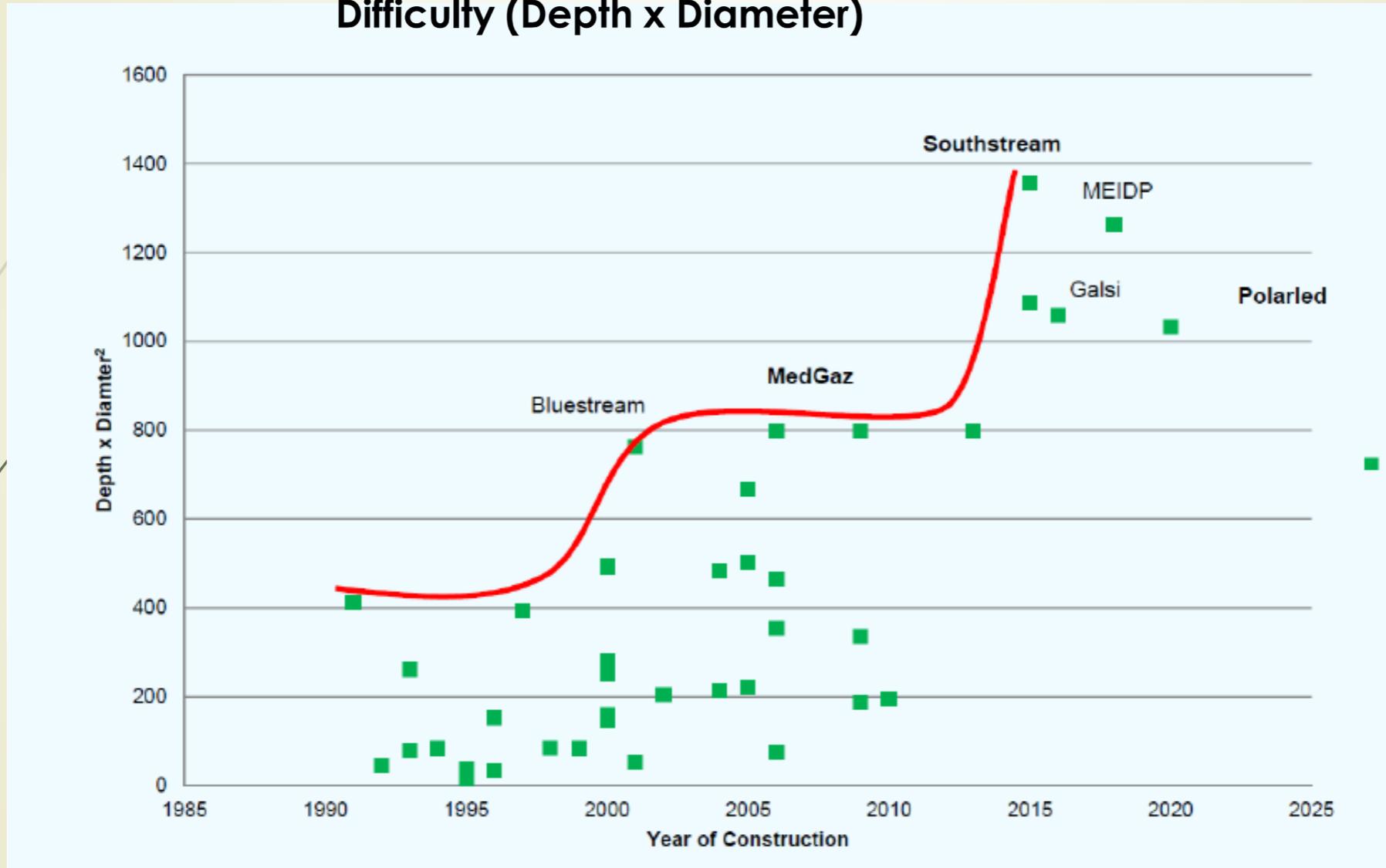
Capable Installation Vessels



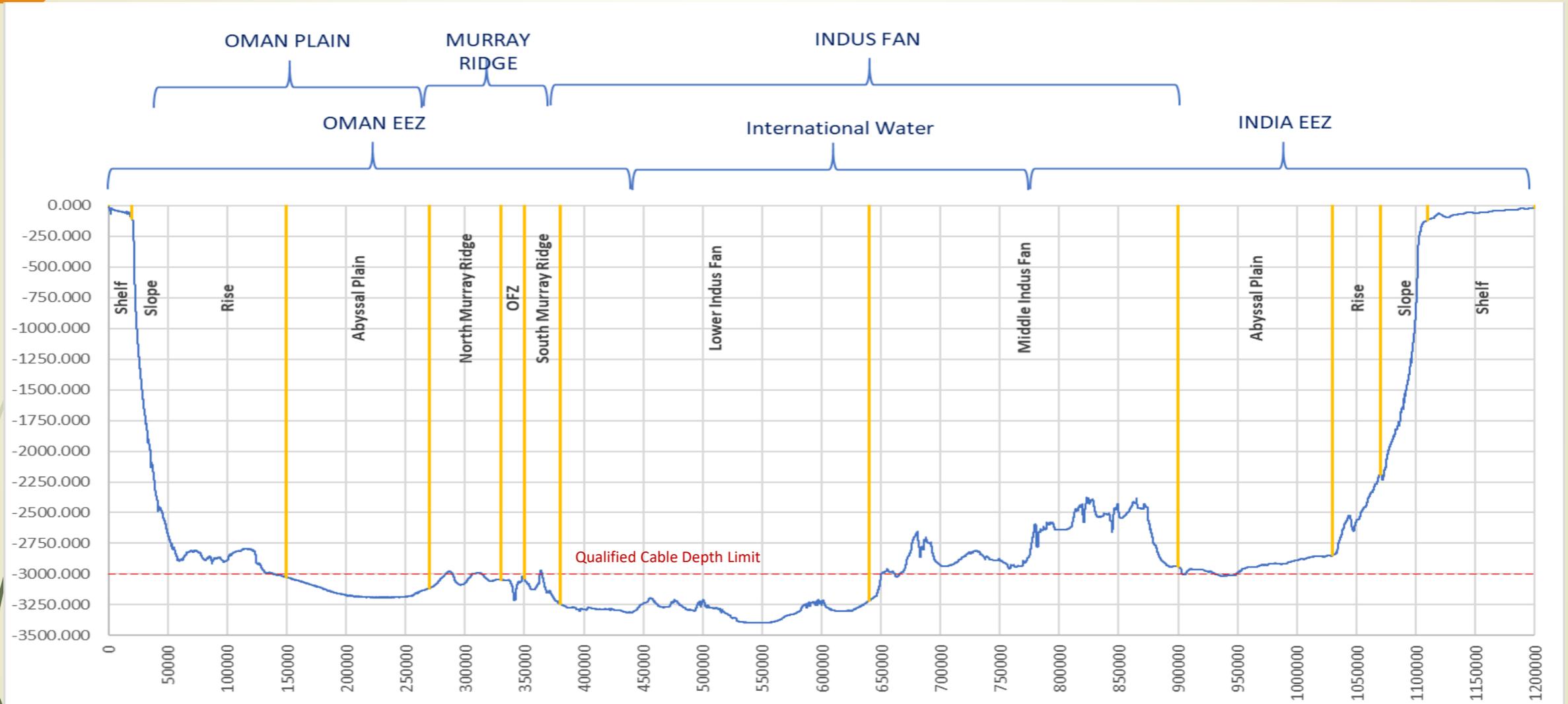
Four vessels are capable of installing the pipeline in maximum water depth of MEIDP Project

- Allseas and Saipem have confirmed that their vessels can install the pipelines for MEIDP project.
- Allseas has laid Turkstream 2,200m WD, 900 km and 32” OD in 2025.
- Saipem has laid Medgaz (220km) in 2008 and Bluestream (500km) in 2200m WD and 24” OD in 2003.

Difficulty (Depth x Diameter)



MEIDP | ROUTE CHARACTERISTICS





इंजीनियर्स इंडिया लिमिटेड **ENGINEERS INDIA LIMITED**
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Regd. Office : Engineers India Bhavan, 1, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-110066

Page 1 of 3

No. SAGE/B028/1704 Date: 27th October 2017

South Asia Gas Enterprise (SAGE)
Siddhomal Group
A-6, Connaught Place
New Delhi-110001

Kind Attn: Mr S.K. Jain, Director, South Asia Gas Enterprise (SAGE)

Reference: EIL Proposal No MKTG/SHM/A943/REV.0 dated 13th January 2017 and email dated 04.02.2017 from SAGE

Subject: Preparation of Pre-Feasibility Report for Middle East to India Deep water Pipeline, EIL Job No. B028 – **Submission of Report.**

Dear Sir

Attached please find the Pre-Feasibility report for Middle East to India Deepwater Pipeline (MEIDP), a transnational pipe line infrastructure to transport 31.1 MMSCMD processed natural gas from Iran to the western coast of India near Porbandar. The transported gas will be received at Gujarat Pipeline Receiving Terminal (GPRT) in the western coast of India in Porbandar district. The natural gas received at GPRT, shall be taken to different markets, across the length and breadth of India, by onshore pipeline interconnecting GPRT with existing gas network.

In line with various meetings held between SAGE and EIL, following route options have been studied.

- **OPTION-1:** Deepwater pipeline route from Iran to India to transport 31.1 MMSCMD gas.
- **OPTION-2:** Offshore pipeline route from Iran to Oman and then deep water pipeline route from Oman To India including onshore pipeline route in Oman to transport 56.1 MMSCMD gas from Iran to Oman out which 25 MMSCMD gas to be supplied to Oman and remaining 31.1 MMSCMD gas to be transported to India.

The route Option-2 (via Oman) has been further divided into following three alternatives:

- **Option-2a :** Offshore pipeline from Kooch Mobarak (Iran) to Sohar (Oman), then onshore Pipeline from Sohar to Al Hadd (Oman) and then finally deep water pipeline from Al Hadd to Porbandar (India).

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STATEMENT OF FEASIBILITY

Statement No.: 2017-0553

This is to state that

Middle East to India Deepwater Pipeline

has been evaluated in accordance with DNVGL-RP-A203 /1/ as reported in DNV GL Technical Report 2017-0553 /3/. DNV GL considers the technology required to successfully execute the project to be feasible as defined in DNVGL-SE-0160 /2/ and thereby the project is suitable for further development and qualification.

Owner: South Asia Gas Enterprise PVT. LTD.

Description: Deepwater Pipeline from Middle East to India

Involvement: DNV GL has been involved in the qualification process as required in /2/ and has facilitated and documented the technology qualification process as described in /3/.

Limitations: The statement of feasibility is limited to this projects and its qualification basis.

Reference documents:

- /1/ DNVGL-RP-A203, Technology Qualification, June 2017
- /2/ DNVGL-SE-0160, Technology qualification management and verification, 2015
- /3/ DNV GL Report no. 2017-0553, Technology Qualification of Middle East to India Deepwater Pipeline

The qualification process is in progress and new sources of uncertainty might be discovered as qualification progresses. Attention is drawn to the iterative nature of the technology qualification process /2/.

Issued at Høvik on 2017-09-11

for DNV GL AS



Olav Aamlid
Senior Principal Specialist



Olav Fyrileiv
Technology Leader

Project Cost Comparison *(In \$ Million)*

Particulars	Oman-India	Fujairah-India
Material Procurement	2,111	2,863
Construction	1,455	1,976
Pre-commissioning & Commissioning	53	53
Engineering, Design & Project Management	229	250
Insurance, Certification and Inspection	90	122
Contingency (~19% of Total Core Cost)	964	1,223
Total Hard Cost	4,902	6,487
Interest during Construction period	659	872
“As-Built” Project Cost	5,561	7,359

Source: Peritus/ Company

Higher Project cost for Fujairah- India Case due to:-

- ✓ High Fujairah-India route length of ~1595 km, v/s Oman-India of ~1188 km.
- ✓ Oman case is based on single constant ID pipeline with 400 barge inlet pressure, as compared to dual ID pipeline of Fujairah.

BLUE STREAM



Russia to Turkey
385 KM, WD 2150 Meters
Operational in 2003

TURKSTREAM



Russia to Turkey
930 KM, WD 2,200 Meters
Operational in 2020

MEDGAZ



Algeria to Spain
210 KM, WD 2150 Meters
Operational in 2008

Norway continues to supply over **300 MMSCMD** gas to UK & Europe through undersea gas pipelines annually.

- **To become 15% gas-based economy, country need to import 700/800 mmscmd gas.**
- **India must develop 2–3 transnational oil and gas pipelines outside the Straits of Hormuz to ensure long-term energy security.**
- **MEIDP project is critical to the success of India’s “Make in India” initiative and aligns with the goals of “Atmanirbhar Bharat.”**
- **The Project would need almost a million tons of Steel pipes, bulk of which can be made in India by Gujarat Pipe Mills**

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

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- **SAGE is already under discussion with international gas suppliers for strategic investments and long-term gas supply agreements with India. We welcome Indian Public & Private Sector Enterprises, as well as global enterprises in the oil & gas sector, under the guidance of GoI/MoPNG, to participate in this connectivity project to form a global consortium that will play a monumental role in national energy security and development.**

- **Support sought from The Government of India/MoPNG/MoCF/MoP/MEA**
 - **Power & Urea companies & CGD enterprises could consider long term offtake of gas and act as anchor investors in the MEIDP Project.**
 - **We further request the MoPNG & Oil, Gas Cos like GAIL/OVL/ONGC and other entities in these fields to review the SAGE & MEIDP Project keeping global and current geopolitical conditions in mind and support us.**
 - **We humbly urge the MoPNG/MEA/PMO to officially take on record the MEIDP Project and extend political support to it in all their official and diplomatic interactions with Oman & UAE.**
 - **MEIDP Project can provide exciting possibilities to companies like OVL to invest in Discovered and Producing Gas Fields in UAE & Oman etc. to further ensure gas availability for the project and give more comfort to lenders in the project. Gulf countries and companies would then also be willing to invest in such projects.**

- India as growing economy needs access to affordable, safe & secure transnational gas pipelines to fuel a growing economy and provide energy security.
- Transnational gas pipelines like MEIDP will reduce heavy dependence on LNG from Qatar, Australia, and USA.
- Reliable commercial tie-ups with a major player in Middle East further improve international trade relations.
- Each MEIDP pipeline may potentially deliver 1.1 BFCF (31.1MMSCMD), saving billions of USD annually by way of subsidies.
- Potential savings of ~Rs 3,196 Cr every year in subsidy outgo with 50% of capacity utilization by Fertilizer sector in India.
- Access to pipeline gas helps moderate competition from LNG benefitting the end consumer and several industries.
- Supply of transnational pipeline gas will reduce landfall gas prices thereby leading to increase in gas demand from primary sectors.
- Availability of long-term supply of affordable gas for greenfield projects in primary sectors like Power & Fertilizer.
- Projects of national interest further helps Govt with the “Make in India” plan and a vision of “USD 5 Trillion Economy” and move closer to an Atmanirbhar Viksit Bharat.

- **MEIDP Project will be a monumental achievement for India to showcase to the world that we can be on par with Europe and the USA and manage our energy independence, making us self-reliant.**
- **Without GOI support, it will be tough to implement such geo-political projects as long-term gas contracts always involve national government and government organizations.**
- **Considering long term availability of affordable natural gas - Fertiliser, Power & CGD sectors in India can become anchor off-taker of Gas from MEIDP, making transnational gas pipelines flourish**
- **India needs at least 2-3 transnational pipelines for Oil & Gas for energy security.**
- **The MEIDP Project avoids the Strait of Hormuz and The Red Sea, both volatile regions, keeping regional geo-political stability in mind.**
- **The MEIDP Project consortium is open to and welcomes strategic Public Sector and Pvt Partnerships to form global alliances in the working towards national interest and we are prepared to develop this project as per MoPNG guidelines & associate our public sector Oil & Gas companies with it too.**

Way Forward

- **Assocham to give recommendations to Government for having Transnational Pipelines**
- **A feasibility Study to be done by leading consultant**
- **Desire to Do – Yes – India to have transnational pipelines for Gas Sourcing**



Think

Make the Gas available
from
Transnational Pipelines
and
be part of

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“Good To Great India”

