

India balances US ties with Russia gas deal

Country Gets Gas Supplies Under \$25-Billion Agreement

QUEST FOR CONTRACTS

Supplier	Country	Supply year	Quantity*	Importing company
RasGas	Qatar	2004	7.5	Petronet LNG (for IOC, BPCL, GAIL)
RasGas	Qatar	2016	1	Petronet LNG (for IOC, BPCL, GAIL)
Gorgon	Australia	Feb 2017	1.5	Petronet LNG for (IOC, BPCL GAIL)
Sabine Pass	US	March 2018	3.5	GAIL
Cove Point	US	April 2018	2.3	GAIL
Gazprom	Russia	June 2018	2.85	GAIL

*In million metric tonne per annum; Source: Oil ministry

Dahej (Gujarat): India on Monday started receiving long-term gas supplies from Russia's Gazprom, the world's top publicly-listed natural gas company, under a \$25-billion deal that indicates New Delhi's quest for newer routes towards energy security and balancing ties with Washington and Moscow.

"Today will be remembered as a golden day for India's energy security roadmap," oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan said after receiving 'LNG Kano', the cryogenic ship carrying the first cargo of LNG (liquefied natural gas) under a 20-year deal with state-run GAIL.

Recalling Russia's extended contribution in developing India's oil and gas sector, Pradhan said the long-term gas supply establishes an energy bridge between the two countries as part of PM Modi and Presi-

dent Vladimir Putin's plan for forging closer strategic economic cooperation.

Pradhan said India will import gas worth \$1.5 billion a year under the deal signed by GAIL in 2012, a year after the state-run utility tied up long-term supplies from two US shale gas projects. All of India's long-term gas deals are in operation, with Gazprom offering the most competitive terms.

Pradhan's statement underlines an effort to put balm on Moscow's growing unease over the Modi government's growing closeness to Washington, especially in areas of defence and now energy. Indian refiners began importing small quantities of US crude last year. In April, GAIL received its first cargo of shale gas from mainland US. The beginning of Russian gas supplies will add to India's bargaining power with its predominantly West Asian energy suppliers.