

Bulgaria is looking for spot purchases of American LNG as early as this year. Keen to limit its dependency on Russian gas, Bulgaria has recently taken a 20 per cent share in the under construction EU-backed LNG terminal in Alexandroupolis, Greece. After signing a commitment to take a 20% ownership stake in the Alexandroupolis Floating Storage Regasification Unit (FSRU) project, as well as, booking capacity for 5 300 000 MWh/year (\approx 500 m.c.m/year) of LNG at that terminal, the Bulgarian Government committed to diversify its gas supplies. Bulgargaz plans to start negotiations directly with U.S. LNG suppliers/exporters for deliveries via the interconnector Greece-Bulgaria. Bulgaria and Greece are building a new 182 km gas interconnector, called ICBG, with a capacity of 3 billion c. m. per year, which will further increase the possibilities of alternative supplies, as well as competition in the gas market. For more information, contact Emily.Taneva@trade.gov, U.S. Embassy Sofia.