Osaka Gas Launches Ship-to-Ship LNG Bunkering, Establishing Full LNG Fuel Supply Capability Across Three Methods

OSAKA, Japan, April 21, 2026—Osaka Gas Co., Ltd. (“Osaka Gas”) announced today that it has commenced LNG bunkering for vessels using the ship-to-ship method. With this development, Osaka Gas has become a supplier for marine LNG fuel with all three primary supply methods—ship-to-ship, truck-to-ship, and port-to-ship.

On April 21, LNG fuel was supplied from the LNG bunkering vessel *SETO AZURE* to a dual-fuel Capesize bulk carrier at JFE Steel Corporation’s West Japan Works in Fukuyama District, Hiroshima, marking the first operation under the ship-to-ship method.

This milestone enables Osaka Gas to deliver a flexible and stable LNG bunkering service by offering multiple supply options tailored to vessel location and operational conditions. The availability of all three methods enhances supply reliability, operational efficiency, and overall service resilience.

The ship-to-ship method—where an LNG bunkering vessel directly supplies fuel to ships at berth or anchorage—offers a high degree of operational flexibility. It also enhances operational redundancy and supply resilience by enabling LNG loading at Osaka Gas’ Senboku LNG Terminal in Osaka and Himeji LNG Terminal in Hyogo.

The *SETO AZURE*, owned by an Osaka Bay LNG Shipping Co., Ltd., an affiliated company of Osaka Gas, was delivered on April 9. The vessel will primarily operate in the Osaka Bay and Setouchi areas as part of Osaka Gas’ LNG bunkering operations.

LNG-fueled vessels have been attracting increasing attention as one of the solutions for decarbonizing the shipping sector, and their numbers have been rising globally.* LNG as a marine fuel significantly reduces CO_2 emissions compared with conventional heavy fuel oil, and further reductions can be achieved by transitioning to e-methane and other synthetic fuels. In Japan, however, LNG bunkering infrastructure has remained limited.

About Osaka Gas

Osaka Gas is a leading Japanese energy company engaged in the supply of gas and electricity, as well as the development of energy-related businesses. The company is advancing its initiatives under its Energy Transition 2050 plan, including the expansion of LNG bunkering services and the promotion of e-methane, with the aim of supporting the decarbonization of society, including the maritime sector.

* Number of LNG-Fueled Vessels (Excluding LNG Carriers)

Year	2015	2020	2025	2030
Number of Vessels	62	185	869	1,271

Source: DNV, *Rising LNG demand: Overcoming bunkering challenges*
https://www.dnv.com/expert-story/maritime-impact/rising-lng-demand-overcoming-bunkering-challenges/#:~:text=LNG%20marine%20fuel%20use%20surges,the%20end%20of%20the%20decade

■Ship-to-Ship LNG bunkering operations conducted by the LNG bunkering vessel *SETO AZURE*

■LNG bunkering vessel *SETO AZURE*

Total length	: 86.29 M
Breadth	: 17.60 M
Gross tonnage	: Approx. 4,350 T
LNG tank system	: IMO Type C independent tank
LNG tank capacity	: Approx. 3,610m^3
Propulsion system	: Electric propulsion（LNG/Fuel Oil Dual-Fuel engine）
Ship owner	: Osaka Bay LNG Shipping Co., Ltd.
Shipbuilding	: Shitanoe Shipbuilding Co., Ltd.

■Company Information

Osaka Gas Co., Ltd.

Head Office: 4-1-2 Hirano-machi, Chuo-ku, Osaka 541-0046, Japan
Established: April 10, 1897
President and CEO: Masataka Fujiwara

Osaka Bay LNG Shipping Co., Ltd.

Head Office: 4-1-2 Hirano-machi, Chuo-ku, Osaka 541-0046, Japan
Established: June 14, 2023
President and CEO: Sunao Okamoto
Shareholders: Osaka Gas International Transport Co., Ltd.; NS United Tanker Co., Ltd.; Hanshin International Port Corporation