

Press release

23 November 2021

**The gas system is able to meet France's winter demand.
Careful storage management is needed to guarantee the security of
supply during exceptionally cold periods.**

Thierry Trouvé, CEO of [GRTgaz](#) and Dominique Mockly, Chairman and CEO of [Teréga](#), presented the “Winter Outlook 2021/2022” assessing the gas system's prospects for the coming winter.

GRTgaz, which transports gas over the whole of France aside from the South-West region, and Teréga, which transports gas in the South-West region and operates 26% of the country's gas storage capacities, confirm that the national gas system should be in a position to meet demand for all French consumers over the coming winter. In the event of peak demand due to exceptional cold weather, however, this will depend on the careful, balanced management of storage facilities throughout the winter. Under the current circumstances, with high gas and LNG prices, and European stocks lower than in France, gas suppliers should look to maintain the capacities needed to supply their customers throughout the country until the end of the winter.

Subscribed capacities to cover demand during a very cold winter

Storage capacities put on the market for 2021/22 were 100% subscribed. The maximum subscription level was hence met for the fourth year in a row. The fill rate for the summer 2021 injection campaign was satisfactory. This was assisted by a French regulation requiring that stocks were at least 85% filled. At 1 November, following the injection campaign, French storage facilities were 95% filled.

As a result, subscribed capacities at different border entry points and for storage facility withdrawals are sufficient to cover demand during a very cold winter. This means that market stakeholders (shippers, industrial companies, gas suppliers, etc.) will be able to use all sources of supply (LNG and pipeline imports).

Meeting demand on a very cold day will likewise require overland supply from the borders, LNG imports and storage facility withdrawals. Even if capacities subscribed by customers for these different supply sources slightly exceed peak cold needs, the effective coverage of this peak consumption is conditional on:

- anticipating LNG terminal inflows,
- storage facilities being sufficiently full to guarantee the necessary withdrawal capacities,
- and/or supplementary capacity subscriptions to route more gas from network entry points.

As a result, too great a reliance on stored gas at the start of this winter would make the system highly dependent on gas imports (overland and LNG). Careful storage therefore entails conserving gas storage levels until the end of winter 2022.

Specific mechanisms and monitoring to prevent bottlenecks

Plans are in place with Trading Region France¹ for specific management mechanisms to resolve any occasional bottlenecks (constraints on the network). The effectiveness of these mechanisms assumes that gas is available in storage facilities upstream of these network constraints. GRTgaz and Teréga monitor these stocks continually throughout the winter to prevent bottlenecks.

Renewable gases are now contributing to securing the gas supply

With the biomethane produced in France, renewable gases are now contributing to meeting the country's consumption needs. At end-October 2021, 336 anaerobic digestion sites were injecting continuously into the gas networks, including 46 injecting directly into the GRTgaz and Teréga networks. With an annual production capacity of 6TWh, these sites injected the equivalent of almost 2% of France's consumption into the gas networks for the month of October. The contribution of biomethane produced in France will be around 14 GWh/day over the winter - i.e. the equivalent production of half a nuclear unit.

About GRTgaz

GRTgaz is the 2nd largest European gas transporter, boasting 32,500 km of pipelines and 640 TWh of gas transported. The business employs 3000 staff and achieved a turnover of nearly 2.3 billion euros in 2020. GRTgaz has a [mission statement](#) that runs: "Together, we make possible an energy future that is safe, affordable and climate neutral". An innovative business undergoing profound transformation to adapt its network to the new ecological and digital challenges, GRTgaz is committed to a 100% carbon neutral gas mix in France by 2050. It supports the hydrogen and renewable gas (biomethane and gas from solid and liquid waste) industries. GRTgaz carries out public service missions to guarantee security of supply to its 945 customers (shippers, distributors, industry, power stations and biomethane producers). With its subsidiaries [Elenqy](#), the European leader in methane tanker terminals, and [GRTgaz Deutschland](#), operator of the German MEGAL transport grid, GRTgaz plays a key role on the European stage. The business exports its expertise internationally, particularly those services developed by its research centre, [RICE](#). You can find us at <https://www.grtgaz.com> and on [Twitter](#).

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About Teréga

A major actor of the energy world in Europe, Teréga has been established in South-West France for over 75 years. The company operates over 5,000 km of pipelines and two underground storage facilities, representing 16% of the French gas transport grid and 26% of national storage capacities. Meeting its public service obligations, Teréga ships natural gas to over 400 delivery stations, under optimal conditions of safety, cost and reliability. In 2020, the company generated revenues of €460 million and it has more than 660 employees. Teréga enjoys a strategic position in Europe, where the company provides the interconnections which guarantee security of supply and with Spain in particular. Recognising that renewable gas has a vital role to play in the energy transition, Teréga wishes to establish itself as an accelerator of this green revolution through increasing its involvement in the biomethane, hydrogen (including Power-to-Gas) and natural gas for vehicles sectors. For more information, visit www.terega.fr. You can also find Teréga on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

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¹ Trading Region France (TRF): since November 2018, to simplify the gas market, France has used as single gas marketplace managed by GRTgaz and Teréga: Trading Region France