
Chinese Eye Gorgon 'Take-away'

After farming into Australia's biggest brownfield project, the North West Shelf, Chinese oil giant, CNOOC, has already signalled it is looking to take a slice of the Gorgon gasfield, which is shaping up to be one of Australia's biggest greenfield projects.

CNOOC has signed a letter of agreement with the participants in the Gorgon Joint Venture to commence discussions regarding a potential upstream investment in the Gorgon project. The Chinese oil giant has a 5.3% stake in the North West Shelf gas project.

CNOOC also agreed to explore marketing opportunities for natural gas from Gorgon into China. This agreement builds on the Memorandum of Understanding entered into between CNOOC and Chevron Australia in August 2001.

"LNG will play an increasingly important role in meeting China's growing energy demand. CNOOC has already developed a competitive advantage in China's LNG and natural gas markets", said Wei Liucheng, Chairman and CEO of CNOOC. "A potential partnership with Gorgon will further enhance our substantial position in this market and it will create a win-win outcome for China and Australia." ■
