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WHAT NEXT FOR GAS? THE ROLE OF INNOVATION IN UNLOCKING NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR NATURAL GAS

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John Gass is a corporate vice president of Chevron Corporation and president of Chevron Global Gas (CGG). Gass joined Chevron in 1974 as a design engineer in New Orleans, Louisiana. Over the years, he held positions of increasing responsibility in engineering, operations and management in Louisiana and California. In April 1996, Gass was named managing director of Chevron Asiatic Ltd., taking on responsibility for Chevron's oil and gas interests in Australia, including the North West Shelf LNG project. In April 2001, he was named managing director of Chevron's Southern Africa strategic business unit based in Luanda, Angola. Gass assumed his present position in July 2003. He serves on the Committee of Visitors for the Vanderbilt School of Engineering and is on the Advisory Board for the Vanderbilt Eye Institute. He is a member of the ASCE and SPE.

*Depicts presenter if not lead author.

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ABSTRACT

In the last 15 years there have been significant swings in expectations about the role for gas in the global energy mix. Today the picture is clearer. Growing populations across the world require more energy to drive economic growth, but at the same time need to reduce pollution and deal with the potential of a more carbon-constrained world.

Over the coming decades then, the world will turn to natural gas as a secure, economic, and cleaner-burning energy source.

In addition to these demand drivers, the emergence of natural gas as a fuel of choice has been facilitated by innovative applications of advanced technologies, better project management and new commercial strategies. Together these advances have unlocked previously inaccessible resources, enhanced environmental protection and created more viable business models.

The next wave of innovation and technology deployment will provide further support for the 'dash for gas' and potentially offer some additional supply options to the world.

Some of the more challenging approaches to gas development are already being deployed within Australia and this process is likely to continue. This coupled with the proximity of Australian resources to Asian markets, should ensure a leading role for Australia's energy sector through to mid-century and beyond. Realising that promise will require partnership, sound execution, continued applications of cutting-edge technologies, more innovation and an unwavering focus on operational excellence.