AOGR TENDERS · LNG

NLNG Seeks EPC Contractor to Restore Train 1 Cryogenic Heat Exchanger Capacity

Saga deep read · 24 March 2026 · Score 76

Nigeria LNG Limited (NLNG) has issued an Expression of Interest (EOI) for an Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) contract to restore the Main Cryogenic Heat Exchanger (MCHE) on Train 1 of its Bonny Island liquefaction facility to full production capacity. The tender signals a significant maintenance and restoration effort at one of Africa's largest and most strategically important LNG export facilities, which supplies European and Asian markets and remains central to Nigeria's hydrocarbon revenue base.

The MCHE is the core processing unit within an LNG train, responsible for cooling and liquefying natural gas to approximately minus 162 degrees Celsius. Degradation or underperformance of this component directly constrains the volume of LNG a train can produce and export. NLNG is seeking companies with demonstrated expertise across the full EPC scope — from front-end engineering and detailed design through procurement of long-lead cryogenic equipment to physical construction and commissioning on a live, operating site. The complexity of working within an active LNG facility environment places significant demands on contractor HSE capability, cryogenic engineering competence, and project execution track record.

NLNG's six-train Bonny Island facility has a nameplate capacity of approximately 22 million tonnes per annum (mtpa), making it one of the top ten LNG producers globally. Train 1 was part of the original two-train configuration that came online in 1999, meaning the equipment is now operating well into its second decade and

beyond original design parameters. Restoring full production on Train 1 would contribute meaningfully to NLNG's overall output at a time when global LNG demand — particularly from Europe following the energy security pivot away from Russian pipeline gas — remains structurally elevated. NLNG is also in the process of expanding with Train 7, which will add approximately 8 mtpa, underlining the operator's long-term commitment to growing throughput.

The EOI stage is the pre-qualification gateway, allowing NLNG to assess the market and shortlist contractors before issuing a formal tender. Companies responding will typically need to demonstrate prior MCHE or equivalent cryogenic heat exchanger EPC experience, a strong HSE record in brownfield LNG environments, financial capacity to execute a major capital project, and a credible local content plan under Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act requirements. Timeline for progression from EOI to contract award has not been publicly confirmed, but the complexity of the scope suggests a multi-year execution period once underway.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

This tender is directly actionable for Norwegian engineering and LNG service companies with cryogenic, brownfield EPC, or specialist procurement capabilities — NLNG regularly engages international contractors at the EOI stage and Norwegian firms with Hammerfest Snøhvit or offshore LNG track records carry relevant credentials. Companies should assess their MCHE-specific experience and Nigerian Content compliance posture before submitting. Those not yet EOI-ready should monitor the formal tender release and consider teaming arrangements with established Nigerian EPC partners to strengthen local content positioning.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **LNG:** Norwegian LNG engineering firms with cryogenic heat exchanger EPC experience should submit an EOI directly, as this is a rare brownfield MCHE restoration scope at a top-tier African facility.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Process engineering contractors with offshore or floating LNG backgrounds can leverage cryogenic systems expertise to position for specialist sub-packages within the broader EPC scope.

- **Service:** Inspection, testing, and integrity management firms should monitor progress, as MCHE restoration will require specialist non-destructive testing and pre-commissioning services throughout execution.
- **Pipeline:** Piping and insulation contractors familiar with cryogenic service conditions and LNG facility brownfield tie-ins should assess sub-contractor opportunities under the lead EPC.
- **Drilling:** Not directly applicable, but well services companies with Nigerian operations and strong NLNG relationships may facilitate introductions for EOI partners entering the Nigerian market for the first time.

Original source: AOGR Tenders →

Saga Advisory

General: info@saga-advisory.com · saga-advisory.com

STAVANGER · CAPE TOWN