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Today Maintenance and Operations Manager of the economic interest group “Dragages-Ports”, which owns the dredgers performing maintenance dredging in the French main ports. Merchant Marine Officer (C1NM), he started as officer on commercial vessels until 1992, he held several positions between 1992 and 2005 notably for the commissioning of installations in major public works Industry (TransManche Link) before joining shipbuilding.

SAMUELNG FOR A BLUE ATLANTIC ARCH

S/F SamuelNG Project, led by French Dragages Ports (DP), is the first phase of the Global Project ‘Towards a Blue Atlantic Arch by 2025’. The overall project aims to improve the sustainability of marine traffic through the use of marine Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) as an environmentally-friendly, and cost-effective, alternative to conventional ship fuels for small vessels.

Key activities

Over the next three years, the S/F SamuelNG Project will cover the following key activities:

- LNG bunkering studies including: a risk assessment in the port of Nantes Saint-Nazaire, a mobile bunkering unit in the Port of Gijon, and a floating device in the Port of Vigo (in conjunction with each of the port’s partners)
- LNG retrofit of DP’s Samuel de Champlain - an 8,500m³ Trailing Suction Hopper Dredger - from Marine Gas Oil to a dual-source fuel engine system
- Environmental Impact Assessment studies in the Ports of Rouen, Le Havre and Nantes Saint-Nazaire
- The training of staff involved in LNG operations in the Ports of Nantes Saint-Nazaire and Rouen
- Dissemination of the results to the maritime community by CEDA

Risk assessment study: Initial assessments have suggested that the ‘trucks-to-ship’ method is at this stage the best for LNG bunkering activity in the Port of Nantes/Saint-Nazaire and on the Loire estuary.

Bunkering and pre-design study in the Port of Gijon: This study evaluates the potential infrastructure required for ports with low LNG demand and will propose a design for a corresponding flexible, or mobile, bunkering system that will be appropriate for small vessels.

Design of floating LNG storage device in the Port of Vigo: The Port of Vigo is leading a study to develop a prototype design for a floating storage and supply unit that will cater mainly for LNG but potentially also handle CNG and MDO.

The SamuelLNG Project is coordinated by Dragages Ports (DP) and supported by a consortium of 12 partners, from along the Atlantic Arch, representing France, Spain and the Netherlands.

The partners working alongside DP on the S/F SamuelLNG Project are:

- 5 public port authorities: Nantes Saint-Nazaire (GPMNSN), Le Havre (GPMH), Rouen (GPMR), Port Authority of Gijon (APG), Port Authority of Vigo (APV)
- 2 ship engineering and design companies: Inova, Ghenova
- 2 energy supply companies: Energias de Portugal (EDP), Gas Natural Fenosa (GNF)
- A short sea shipping company: Suardiaz (VN)
- An international dredging association: CEDA