



An artist's impression of the LNG bunkering vessel

Bomin Linde grows LNG bunker fleet

German LNG fueling pair says vessel will be deployed in the Baltic Sea by late 2018.

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Germany's Bernhard Schulte has been in talks with Singapore's Keppel Shipyard about an upcoming order for a 7,500-cbm LNG bunker tanker newbuilding.

The vessel, different versions of which have been in the works for quite some time, is understood not to have been finally signed off yet and it remains unclear whether the Singapore yard will be the facility to secure the order.

A spokesman for Bomin Linde, the newbuilding's charterer, told TradeWinds: "We will disclose this information jointly with Bernhard Schulte at a later stage."

This week Bomin Linde LNG announced its charter deal on an LNG bunker supply vessel in a deal with Bernhard Schulte.

The 7,500-cbm DP2-rated vessel is due for commissioning in late 2018 and will be deployed to supply vessels and small-scale LNG terminals in the Baltic.

The vessel is chartered by a joint venture between Bomin Linde LNG with 90% and Klaipeda LNG import terminal owner Klaipedos Nafta, with 10%.

For Klaipedos Nafta, the vessel secures a flexible LNG transport service to their onshore LNG reloading station.

"The share of LNG as a marine fuel will grow significantly in the Baltic Sea over the next few years," said Bomin Linde LNG chief executive Mahinde Abeynaike.

"We intend to be at the front, leading the development. Signing this contract is an important milestone for Bomin Linde LNG and a big step forward for the maritime LNG market in the Baltic Sea region.

"For the first time ship owners and operators will have access to a complete LNG supply chain in the Baltic Sea region.

"The new vessel will secure LNG supply at an attractive price level, which is crucial for ship owners and charterers of LNG-powered vessels."

The Linde Group already operates the LNG terminal in Nynashamn and the smaller LNG bunker supply vessel Seagas in Stockholm.

Concurrent to the charter contract, The Linde Group has acquired the shares of Bomin Linde LNG held by previous co-owner Marquard & Bahls.

"Bomin Linde LNG will complement and expand our existing LNG portfolio, offering customers access to a unique spectrum of LNG infrastructure in the Baltic Sea and North Sea region," said Linde AG executive board member Bernd Eulitz.