



Arctic Icebreaking Tanker Launched

OE Watch Commentary: Designed by the Finns, built by the Chinese, owned by the Greeks and leased by the Russians, the *Boris Sokolov* is a key piece of insuring that liquefied natural gas (LNG) deliveries reach Asian customers on time as the accompanying excerpted article notes. It will sail between the Sabetta seaport on the Yamal Peninsula and the transshipment terminal currently under construction on the Kamchatka Peninsula. The new tanker also demonstrates the perceived value of Arctic resources. Five million tons of LNG have now been shipped from Sabetta and more and more countries are interested in Arctic transport, Arctic resources and Arctic ecology. Multinational cooperation on economic projects is certainly a growing part of this interest in the region. **End OE Watch Commentary (Grau)**

“The ‘Boris Sokolov’ will shuttle to and from Sabetta, the new terminal in Yamal Peninsula, and ports in Europe and Asia.”

Source: Atle Staalesen, “New condensate tanker sails north, gets ready to break ice on Northern Sea Route,” *The Barents Observer*, 6 December 2018. <https://thebarentsobserver.com/en/industry-and-energy/2018/12/new-condensate-tanker-sails-north-gets-ready-break-ice-northern-sea>

The Guangzhou Shipyard International...built the top ice-class Arc7 carrier. It was handed over to its owner, Greek company Dynacom Tankers Management, more than a year after the original time schedule....The tanker is designed by AkerArctic, the Finnish company that has been instrumental in designing the natural gas carriers for Novatek’s Yamal LNG project, Gazprom Neft’s Prirazlomnaya tankers and several more Arctic ships. “There are not many tankers in the world with an ice class this high,” senior company designer Mauri Lindholm said about the new ship. The reference vessels for the new design are the two 70,000 tdw tankers [tdw=tons dead weight-the total weight a ship can carry] for the Prirazlomnaya project, designed for Sovcomflot about ten years ago. The new ship is named after Boris Sokolov, the Russian captain who commanded the world’s first nuclear-powered icebreaker for almost 40 years

The “Boris Sokolov” will shuttle to and from Sabetta, the new terminal in Yamal Peninsula, and ports in Europe and Asia. The ship is primarily built for LNG deliveries but can also be used as a regular oil tanker...It is 214 meters long and has a deadweight of 43,300 tons. It is able to break through 1.8 meters of thick ice independently.

Gas condensate is a byproduct of fine oil separated from the natural gas before its liquefaction process. It is a low-density mix of light oils and is a valuable raw material for the petrochemical industry or as fuel. The resource base for Yamal LNG project is the South Tambey field, which holds more than 900 billion cubic meters of natural gas. The field also includes 30 million tons of liquid hydrocarbons. The first shipment of condensate from Sabetta took place in late January 2018, only few weeks after the project was launched.



Launch of the third stage of the Yamal LNG plant.
Source: The Russian Government, <http://government.ru/en/news/35055/>, CC 4.0.