



Have Power, Will Travel

OE Watch Commentary: Powering remote sites can be an expensive proposition, particularly in the Arctic. Russia has more northern cities and villages in the Arctic than any other country. Russia has designed and built a floating nuclear energy power plant which will begin supplying electrical energy to the remote Russian town of Pevek this summer and there are now plans to design and build floating liquefied natural gas (LNG)-fueled power plants. It is a natural extension based on the remarkable growth and success of the Russian LNG industry on the Arctic Yamal Peninsula. It will fit in well with Russian LNG ice-class tankers transiting the Northern Sea Route and has definite applications for non-Russian LNG customers. The Wärtsilä firm mentioned in the accompanying excerpted article is the Finnish corporation, Wärtsilä Oyj Abp, which manufactures and maintains power plants and other equipment for the maritime and energy markets. **End OE Watch Commentary (Grau)**

Source: Thomas Nilsen, “Russia launches call for tender for floating LNG power plant,” *The Barents Observer*, 6 February 2019. <https://thebarentsobserver.com/en/industry-and-energy/2019/02/russia-launches-tender-floating-lng-power-plant>

While the Akademik Lomonosov is scheduled to be towed to the remote Arctic town of Pevek this summer, [subsequent floating nuclear power stations] could face cheaper competition from floating LNG power plants. According to the tender, a potential builder would have to include both construction costs and long-term maintenance costs. The tender stipulates a 45 million ruble price for the feasibility study, preliminary design and possible deployment of such floating power plant, fueled with LNG...

Russia is not the first to build such floating power plant. Wärtsilä has already delivered one such plant on a barge to the Dominican Republic. Placed on a barge, the power plant can easily be relocated and is therefore an ideal solution for power production on an interim basis. It can either provide power to a remote mining or petroleum field like on the north coast of Siberia, or it can be connected to a local electricity grid as the Akademik Lomonosov will be in Pevek on Russia’s Far Eastern northern coast.

With Yamal LNG, the coming Arctic LNG, and the reloading terminal on the Kola Peninsula, Russia has several sources to provide fuel to such plants in northern waters. Russia has large-scale plans for industrial development of the Arctic region, including along the Northern Sea Route and the northern rivers of Ob, Yenisei and Lena.

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View of Pevek from the south.

Source: Btibtets [Public domain], https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:View_of_Pevok_from_the_south.jpg.