



# *An Introduction to Kryopak EXP<sup>®</sup> LNG Process*



### ***Why and What is LNG.....***

LNG is an acronym for Liquefied Natural Gas. The purpose of liquefying natural gas at very low temperatures is to enable transportation from the producing region to a distant market. The liquefied natural gas occupies a volume that is approximately 1/600<sup>th</sup> of the volume occupied by the gas at atmospheric pressure. The process of liquefaction is energy intensive, and it is only economically feasible to do when the distance to the market is too large for conventional pipeline transport.

All of the processes to produce LNG are based on a common concept – cool the natural gas down to a temperature where it is a liquid at ambient pressure, approximately –161°C (–258°F). The method of cooling the natural gas is where the processes differ. All of the LNG processes begin in the same way. Wet natural gas passes through the pre-treatment section of the plant, where it is treated to remove carbon dioxide, hydrogen sulphide, mercury, mercaptans and dehydrated to remove water. The treated, dry gas is then precooled to an intermediate temperature, approximately –35°C (–31°F). This will cause the heavier hydrocarbon components, which can freeze at very low temperatures, to condense and separate from the gas. The lean gas, mainly methane and ethane, is then sent to the liquefaction section of the plant, where it is cooled to approximately –161°C (–258°F) before sending it to storage. The liquefied heavier hydrocarbon components can be shipped as condensate products, or can be fractionated into pure marketable products, including propane and butane.

### ***What LNG Processes are Available.....***

Where the LNG processes differ is with the different processes used for the cooling (refrigeration). There are three major commercial mixed refrigerant processes, developed for base load LNG plants and currently dominate the market, APCI's C3MR (Propane Mixed-Refrigerant Process), ConocoPhillips' OCR (Optimized Cascade Refrigeration Process) and Prico (Single Mixed-Refrigerant Process), generally called MR (Mixed Refrigerant Process) .

There are several other processes, such as Shell's DMR (Dual Mixed Refrigerant Process), Liquifin Axens Process, SFMR (Single Flow Mixed Refrigerant Process), MFC (Mixed Fluid Cascade Process) and ABB's Dual TEX Cycle, are for limited applications or under development.

### ***Why Kryopak EXP<sup>®</sup> LNG Process.....***

All of the current major commercial LNG processes above were designed for base load (large scale) LNG plant by employing complicated processes and equipment to reduce the operation energy consumption. For the small scale LNG plant for remote gas liquefaction, it has been considered not economical and

practical by using the major processes not only due to their process complication but also due to their limited flexibility for feed gas flow rate and composition fluctuation.

Observing the Q/T diagram of a typical gas liquefaction process, three zones could be noted in the process of the gas being liquefied. (See Fig.-1). A pre-cooling zone, followed by a liquefaction zone, and completed by a sub-cooling zone. All of these zones are characterized by having different curve slopes, or specific heats, along the process. Keep in mind that the Q/T curve shape is different for different gas compositions; in other words, the cooling, liquefaction and sub-cooling zones are in different temperature and cooling duty zones for different gas compositions.

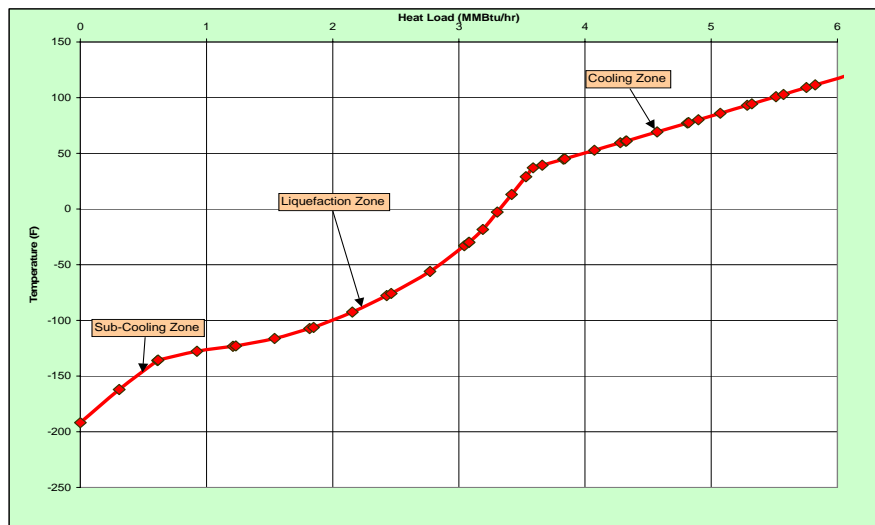


Fig.-1: Q/T Diagram of Typical Gas Liquefaction

Mixed Refrigerant (MR) cycles are designed trying to closely approach the cooling curve of the gas being liquefied, by using specially mixed multi-component refrigerants that will match the cooling curve at the different zones/stages of the liquefaction process to achieve high refrigeration efficiency and reduce energy consumption. When gas composition is away from the design gas, the Q/T curve will shift, but the refrigeration won't, since it has been fixed by the premixed refrigerants. The temperature approaches will not be achieved as designed and therefore the refrigeration efficiency will deviate.

*Kryopak EXP®* employs refrigeration generated by a single semi-closed isentropic expansion of gases. The composition of the refrigerant gas is the same as the vapor generated from final product flash. (See Fig.-2). By this means no mechanical refrigeration is used in the system as seen in the MR processes, simplifying the process accordingly. By recycling the gas, the slope of the Q/T curves are accordingly changed per the cooling input at the different zones by the recycling refrigerant gas, obtaining profiles close to the gas refrigerant been used, thus minimizing deviations due to gas composition fluctuation. The amount

of flow used in the recycles, the feed gas, and refrigerant pressure levels alter the shape of the Q/T curves, which are part of the design parameters used in achieving an optimum design. The control system will recognize these fluctuations and automatically change as required for optimum system performance.

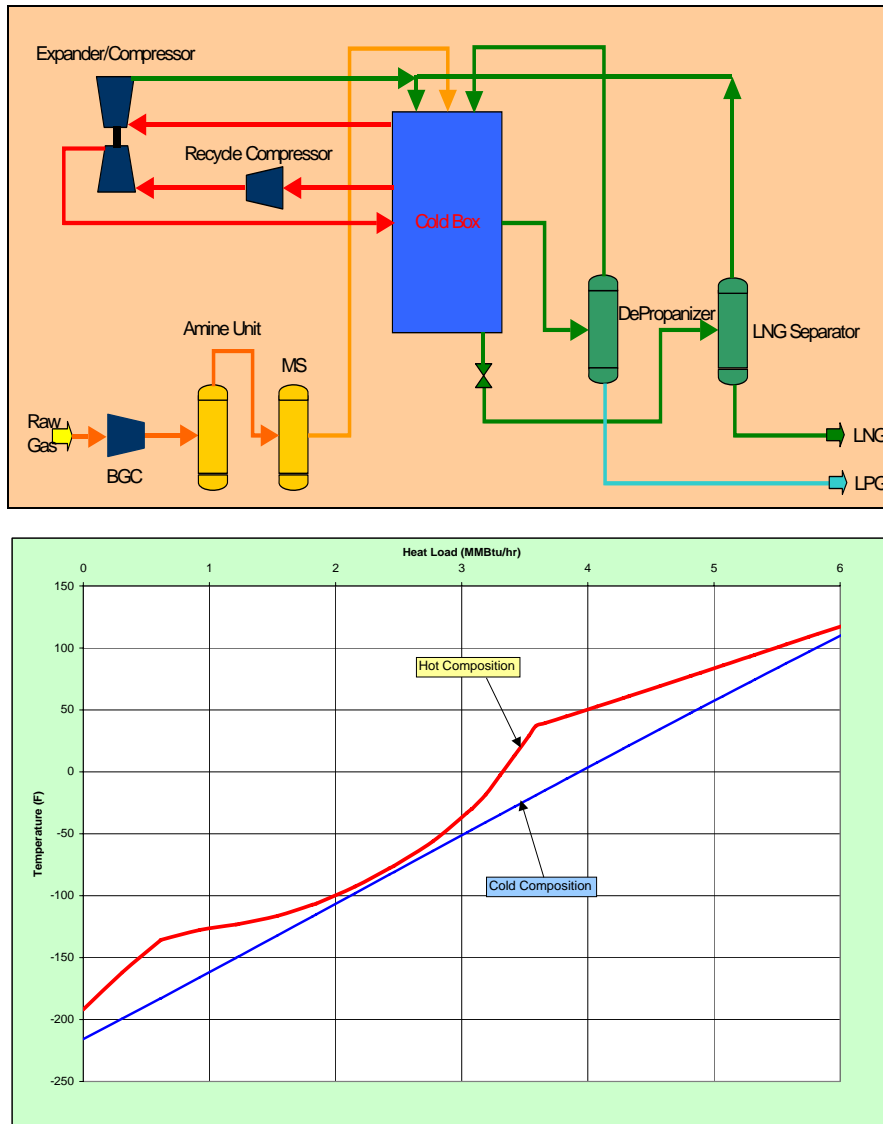


Fig.-2: Simplified *Kryopak EXP®* Process Diagram and Q/T Composition Curves

In the *Kryopak EXP®* process, work and refrigeration are extracted from the expansion process. The refrigeration is used to aid the liquefaction process and the work extracted is utilized to partially recompress the refrigerant gas. Thermodynamically speaking, this expansion cycle is as efficient as the most advanced mixed refrigerant cycles. Today, compressor/expander efficiencies are reaching more than 85%. This represents an emerging opportunity to insist in the utilization of this technology in the LNG business. Using this design philosophy,

the *Kryopak EXP®* process is able to achieve a mid level specific refrigeration energy consumption of 0.20 - 0.23 hp/lb LNG (13.5 – 15.5 kW/ton-day LNG) compared to the reported design energy consumption of 0.18-0.25 hp/lb LNG (12.2 – 16.8 kW/ton-day LNG) for the existing MR LNG processes. One of our typical designs with 150,000 Nm<sup>3</sup>/day (125 tons /day LNG) has a total refrigeration energy consumption of only 2,550 kW.

The advantages and benefits of this *Kryopak EXP®* process are:

- Extremely simple compared with the MR processes.
- Adaptable to different quality of feed gas without changing plant efficiency, as the refrigeration cycle works with the purpose of producing refrigeration to satisfy the refrigeration demand imposed by the LNG requirements.
- The refrigerant is always in gas phase, which eliminates the requirement of refrigerant inventory and separators for their handling, with the correspondent impact in the safety on the facility, and therefore simplifies the construction of the cold box exchanger also.
- There is no need for premixing of refrigerant.
- All of the equipments employed by the *Kryopak EXP®* process are standard conventional oil and gas field processing equipments using no new or unproven technology.

As evaluated by Project Technical Liaison & Associates (PTL), one of the world's leading LNG facility evaluation firms:

*“The process has the advantage of using a simple cooling system with a relatively small number of pieces of equipment operating at cryogenic temperatures and a fast approach to equilibrium upon warm start-up. The simplicity of the design and the self-equilibrating nature of the process provide straightforward operation. The process is not very sensitive to reasonable changes in feed gas composition (as evidenced by the three cases examined) ..... The equipment required in the plant is standard and is readily available from various vendors.....”*

### ***Kryopak EXP® LNG Process Applications.....***

- Remote gas recovery, peakshaving, small scale, base load.
- 1.0MMscfd to 11MMscfd (2x10<sup>4</sup>Nm<sup>3</sup>/day to 30x10<sup>4</sup>Nm<sup>3</sup>/day) reciprocating compressor without heat recovery, specific energy consumption of 0.22-0.23hp/lb LNG depending on design air temperature, full skid plant.
- 15MMscfd to 200MMscfd (40x10<sup>4</sup>Nm<sup>3</sup>/day to 5x10<sup>6</sup>Nm<sup>3</sup>/day) centrifugal compressor with heat recovery, specific energy consumption of 0.20hp/lb LNG, partially skid plant.

## Gas and LNG Facts.....

### **Typical Components of Industry Gas Streams**

Names	Components											
	CO2	H2S	N2	C1	C2	C3	iC4	nC4	iC5	nC5	C6	C7+
Inert Gas	x		x									
Acid Gas	x	x										
LNG			x	x	x	x	x	x				
Natural Gas	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LPG					x	x	x	x				
Natural Gasoline						x	x	x	x	x	x	x
NGL					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Condensate (Stabilized)							x	x	x	x	x	x

### **Definitions of Words and Terms Used in the Gas Processing Industry**

Cricondenbar	The highest pressure at which liquid and vapor phases can exist at equilibrium in a multicomponent system.
Cricodentherm	The highest temperature at which liquid and vapor phases can exist at equilibrium in a multicomponent system.
GPM	Preferably Gal/Mcf (gallons per thousand cubic feet): This term refers to the content in natural gas of components which are recoverable or recovered as liquid products.
Mcf	An abbreviation for one thousand cubic feet of gas.
MMscf	An abbreviation for one million cubic feet of gas.
RVP (Reid Vapor Pressure)	The vapor pressure of a material measured by the Reid Method and apparatus as detailed in ASTM Test Procedure D-323.
Wobbe Number	A number proportional to the heat input to a burner at constant pressure. In British practice, it is the gross heating value of a gas divided by the square root of its gravity. Widely used in Europe, together with a measured or calculated flame speed, to determine interchangeability of fuel gases.
Heating Value (Heat of Combustion)	The amount of heat obtained by the complete combustion of a unit quantity of material. The gross, or higher, heating value is the amount of heat obtained when the water produced in the combustion is condensed. The net, or lower, heating value is the amount of heat obtained when the water produced in the combustion is not condensed.

**Gas Properties and Pre-Treating for LNG**

Components	MW	Boiling Temp		Freezing Temp		Gas Purity to LNG
		(°C)	(°F)	(°C)	(°F)	
Nitrogen	28.013	-195.80	-320.44	-209.90	-345.82	<1% (Note 1)
CO2	44.010	-78.50	-109.30	-56.60	-69.88	<50-100ppmv (Note 2)
H2S	34.080	-85.55	-121.99	-60.35	-76.63	<4ppmv
Methane	16.043	-161.49	-258.68	-182.48	-296.46	
Ethane	30.070	-88.63	-127.53	-183.27	-297.89	
Propane	44.097	-42.07	-43.73	-187.69	-305.84	
i-Butane	58.124	-11.73	10.89	-159.60	-255.28	
n-Butane	58.124	-0.50	31.10	-138.35	-217.03	<2%
Neo-Pentane	72.151	9.50	49.11	-16.55	2.21	<5ppmv
i-Pentane	72.151	27.85	82.13	-159.90	-255.82	
n-Pentane	72.151	36.07	96.93	-129.72	-201.50	<0.1%
n-Hexane	86.178	68.74	155.73	-95.35	-139.63	<0.5%
Mcyclopentan	84.162	71.81	161.26	-142.46	-224.42	
Benzene	78.115	80.10	176.18	5.53	41.96	1-10ppmv (Note 2)
Cyclohexane	84.162	80.74	177.33	6.55	43.80	1-10ppmv (Note 2)
Mcyclohexane	98.190	100.93	213.68	-126.59	-195.87	
Toluene	92.141	110.63	231.13	-94.91	-138.84	
E-Benzene	106.169	136.19	277.13	-94.98	-138.96	
p-Xylene	106.169	138.85	281.93	13.26	55.87	
m-Xylene	106.169	139.10	282.39	-47.87	-54.17	
o-Xylene	106.169	144.41	291.94	-25.18	-13.33	
n-C7	100.206	98.43	209.17	-90.61	-131.10	
n-C8	114.233	125.67	258.20	-56.80	-70.23	
n-C9	128.260	150.79	303.42	-53.52	-64.33	
H2O						<0.5ppmv
Mercury						<0.01microgram/Nm3
						<10Nanogram/Nm3

Note: 1. Limited by product specifications for particular projects

Note: 2. Depends on overall composition

**LNG Process Energy Usage Comparison (Assumed 100% Compression Eff)**

Process	Energy Consumption		Application
	kW/ton-day LNG	HP/lb-LNG	
APCI (C3MR)	12.2	0.18	Base Load
ConocoPhillips (OCR)	14.1	0.21	Base Load
Prico (SMR)	16.8	0.25	Base Load, Small Scale
Sell (DMR-SMR)	12.5	0.18	Base Load
ABB Dual Expander Cycle			
TEX + C3R	13.5	0.20	Small Scale
Dual TEX Cycle	16.5	0.24	Small Scale
Pre-Cooled Dual TEX Cycle	13.0	0.19	Small Scale
Kryopak EXP®	15.5	0.23	Small Scale
Kryopak PCMR®	13.0	0.19	Base Load, Small Scale
<p>Note: C3MR - Propane Mixed Refrigeration  OCR - Optimized Cascade Refrigeration  SMR - Single Mixed Refrigeration  DMR - Dual Mixed Refrigerant  C3R - Propane Pre-Cooled  PCMR – Pre-Cooled Mixed Refrigerant  EXP - Turbo-Expander  TEX - Turbo-Expander</p>			

**Useful Conversions**

1 million tones LNG	≈ 2.2 million cubic meter LNG
1 million tones per year (tpy) LNG	≈ 140 million standard cubic per day (MMscfd) gas
100 MMscfd gas	~ 730,000 tpy LNG
	~ 2,100 tpd LNG
1 million cubic meter LNG	= 6.29 million bbl LNG
	≈ 460,000 tonnes LNG
1 cubic meter LNG	~ 600 cubic meter gas
	~ 21200 cubic foot gas
	≈
1 standard cubic foot (scf)	= 0.0268 normal cubic meter (Nm <sup>3</sup> )
1 standard cubic meter (scm)	= 1.057 normal cubic metter (Nm <sup>3</sup> )
1 kmole gas	= 22.41 Nm <sup>3</sup> @ 101.325kPa(A) and 0°C
1 lb-mole gas	= 379.49 scf @ 14.696psia and 60°F

## **Salof Refrigeration Co. Kryopak, Inc.**

### ***Head Office***

5141 IH 35 South  
New Braunfels, TX 78132  
USA  
Tel: (800) 837-7174 or 830-625-1613  
Fax: (830) 625-0778  
Email: [gsalof@salof.com](mailto:gsalof@salof.com)

### ***China Region Exclusive Agency ( 中国地区独家代理 )***

Max Universal Inc. (美国顶值国际)

16225 Park Ten Place Dr., Suite 500  
Houston, TX 77084  
USA  
Phone: (713) 574 1674  
Fax: (281) 398 0249

Email: [infomaxuniversal@max-universal.com](mailto:infomaxuniversal@max-universal.com)

Max Universal Inc. (美国顶值国际) (Beijing Office)  
Room A 1007, No.8 Bei Chen Dong Lu  
Chaoyang District  
Beijing 100101, P.R. China  
Tel: (86)10 8497 2377  
Fax: (86)10 8497 2488  
E-mail: [qujing@max-universal.com](mailto:qujing@max-universal.com)