



Worldwide coordination supports safe start-up and operation of Ichthys LNG project

Massive Australian LNG project operated by INPEX requires expertise to deliver safety systems as part of complex, multifaceted development

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Energy companies around the world rely on automated safety systems from HIMA Paul Hildebrandt GmbH. “But our scope on Ichthys is much more than just safety systems,” says Dieter Specht, project director for HIMA. “We have worked for several years to synchronize all the steps necessary to ensure safe operations and a successful start-up. In the process, we’ve functioned on a tight time schedule with multiple companies across national borders and cultural differences.”

This type of coordination is essential for a project as enormous and complex as Ichthys. Scheduled for start-up in the third quarter of 2017, the joint venture megaproject is forecasted to produce 8.9 million tons of LNG yearly.

Projects of Ichthys’ size and complexity also call for partners and suppliers to work globally. To meet that demand, HIMA offices in Singapore, China (Shanghai), South Korea (Geoje), Dubai (UAE), Australia (Perth) and Germany (Bruehl) have collaborated closely. Project management is coordinated from Bruehl, while most day-to-day work with fellow project suppliers takes place in Singapore. That’s also where function tests have been conducted on more than 1,200 cabinets supplied by the basic process control system (BPCS) supplier, HIMA and project partners.

Global coordination and local collaboration are crucial for huge energy projects. At Ichthys, HIMA is working closely with the project's three engineering procurement contractors and the BPCS supplier. At one point, all five companies examined the details of each of 25,000 safety I/Os. That brought forward additional requirements that typically would have been identified during commissioning. That up-front work helped to minimize subsequent plan corrections and related time delays.

Functional safety expertise is an important factor in HIMA's project approach. The company is applying the principles of IEC 61511 in designing and testing the systems. "We have the expertise and project coordination skills that are valued by operators of all sizes of energy projects," says Specht.

Along with safety instrumented systems (SIS), fire and gas (F&G) systems and high-integrity pressure protection systems (HIPPS), HIMA is providing 430 control cabinets and related connections. A pre-FID project for developing standard applications, design and testing was supplied in advance to the main contract. Additionally, cybersecurity and network management for associated hardware and components such as smoke detectors in employee living accommodations are part of the scope.

Since the award of the project, Ichthys consortium partner Total awarded two additional FPSO projects to HIMA. The company was selected to provide safety applications.



Caption: The Ichthys LNG Project safely launched its central processing facility on 19 September 2015 from the Samsung Heavy Industries shipyard in Geoje, South Korea, where it was constructed.

Picture © INPEX

About HIMA

The HIMA group is the world's leading independent provider of solutions for safety-critical applications. With more than 35,000 installed systems and TÜV-certified hardware and software, HIMA qualifies as the safety automation industry's technology leader. For over 45 years the world's largest oil, gas, chemical, pharmaceutical and energy-producing companies have relied on HIMA products, services and consulting to provide uninterrupted plant operations and protection for people and the environment. HIMA solutions are also leading the way to increased safety and profitability in the rail industry, logistics and machine operations. A family-owned safety specialist, HIMA operates from over 50 locations worldwide, has a workforce of approximately 850 employees and in fiscal year 2014 generated sales of €121 million.

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