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Top News - Oil

Iraq invites global oil firms for talks on Kurdistan contracts

Iraq's Ministry of Oil said on Saturday it had invited global foreign companies operating under the Association of the Petroleum Industry of Kurdistan (APIKUR) umbrella, along with firms contracted by the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), to a meeting in Baghdad on March 4.
The talks are set to address issues related to existing contracts and seek agreements that align with international best practices for oilfield development while safeguarding national interests, the ministry said in a statement.
The Kurdistan Region's Ministry of Natural Resources is also expected to attend the discussions, which come amid ongoing efforts to streamline oil operations between Baghdad and Erbil.
Eight international oil firms operating in Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region said they would not resume oil exports through Turkey's Ceyhan on Friday despite an announcement from Baghdad that the restart was imminent.
The government said on Friday it would announce a resumption in the coming hours, with an initial amount of 185,000 barrels per day (bpd) exported through state oil marketer SOMO and that quantity gradually increasing.
The Association of the Petroleum Industry of Kurdistan (APIKUR), which represents 60% of production from the region, said later no formal contact had been made for clarity on commercial agreements and guarantees of payment for past and future exports.

POLL-Ample supply to check oil prices despite political uncertainty

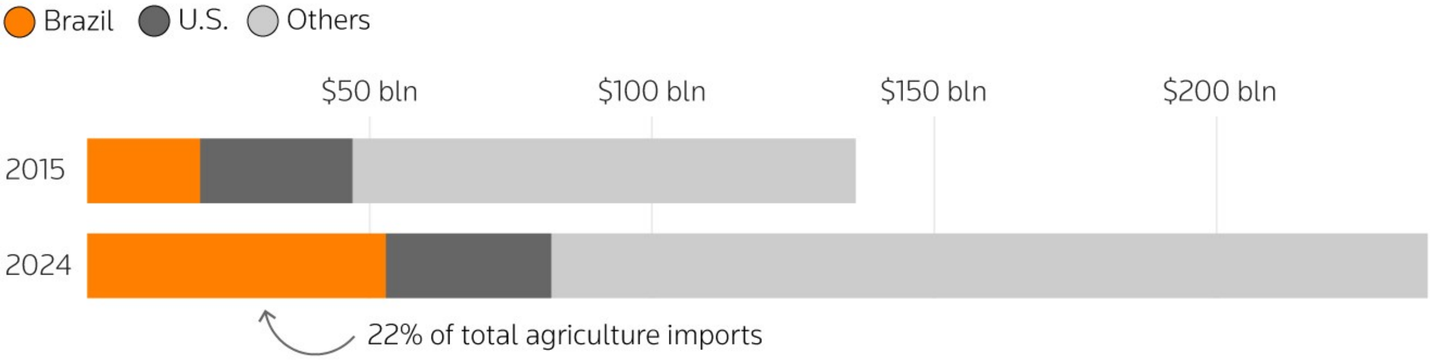
Analysts are holding their oil price predictions largely steady as they expect any impact from further U.S. sanctions to be balanced by ample supply and a possible peace deal between Russia and Ukraine, a Reuters poll showed.
The survey of 41 economists and analysts forecast Brent crude would average $74.63 per barrel in 2025, up from a forecast of $74.57 in January.
U.S. crude, meanwhile, is projected to average $70.66 per barrel in 2025 versus $70.40 seen in last month's poll.
"Unless supply is severely disrupted, price spikes should remain capped by the vast scale of OPEC+ spare capacity – this is what happened in October 2024 during the latest flare-up of tensions between Iran and Israel," said Kim Fustier, head of European oil & gas research at HSBC.
The U.S. this week announced sanctions targeting over 30 brokers, tanker operators, and shipping firms involved in moving Iranian oil.
Earlier this year, the U.S. imposed its broadest package of sanctions yet, targeting Russia's oil and gas revenues.
"However, it is not clear if these sanctions alone are strong enough to keep prices elevated.
The overall dynamic suggests that prices might further fall due to expected oversupply in the market," said Cyrus De La Rubia, chief economist at Hamburg Commercial Bank.
The market is also monitoring Russian-Ukrainian peace talks.
While analysts anticipate a peace deal between the two countries would likely lower oil prices in the short term, the longer-term impact may be limited.
News of a peace agreement could push the price of Brent toward $70, said Stratas Advisors President John Paisie.
However, Stratas expects the price will quickly rebound once the market realises the impact on oil volumes will be limited.
In 2025, global oil demand is expected to increase by 788,000 to 2.0 million barrels per day (bpd), according to the poll.
The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), in a monthly report, projected global oil demand would rise by 1.45 million bpd in 2025 and 1.43 million bpd in 2026.
Markets are seeking clarity on whether OPEC and its allies, collectively known as OPEC+, will proceed with plans to boost oil supply from April.
In its last ministerial meeting, OPEC+ agreed to gradually raise oil output from April and dropped the U.S. Energy Information Administration as a monitoring source.
However, some analysts anticipate that OPEC+ will postpone the easing of output cuts to avoid further price declines.
"Healthy non-OPEC output continues to challenge OPEC+'s ability to increase its production, while demand is unlikely to reaccelerate meaningfully," Fustier said.

Chart of the Day

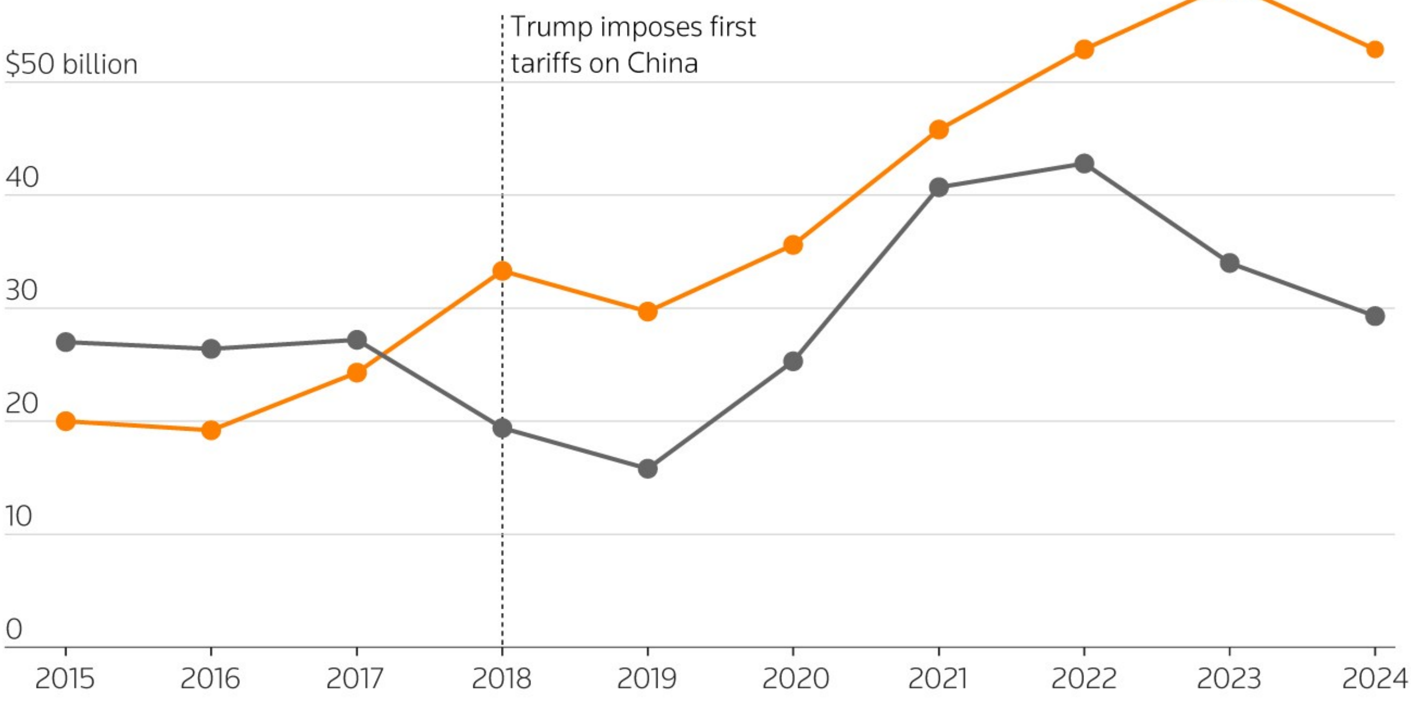
China pivot from US farm imports bolsters it against trade war risks

China has been diversifying its supply sources since 2018 to reduce dependency on U.S. goods with Brazil overtaking U.S. as its biggest supplier.

CHINA'S AGRICULTURE IMPORTS



AGRICULTURE IMPORTS FROM TOP TWO SUPPLIERS



Source: Trade Data Monitor

Kripa Jayaram • Jan. 27, 2025 | REUTERS

Top News - Agriculture

China targets US agriculture over Trump tariff threat, Global Times says

China has American agricultural exports in its cross hairs as it prepares countermeasures against fresh U.S. import tariffs, China's state-backed Global Times reported, raising the stakes in an escalating trade war between the world's top two economies.

U.S. President Donald Trump last week threatened China with the extra 10% duty set to take effect on Tuesday, resulting in a cumulative 20% tariff, and accused Beijing of not doing enough to halt the flow of fentanyl into America, which China said was tantamount to "blackmail."

"China is studying and formulating relevant countermeasures in response to the U.S. threat of imposing an additional 10% tariff on Chinese products under the pretext of fentanyl," Global Times reported, citing an anonymous source.

"The countermeasures will likely include both tariffs and a series of non-tariff measures, and U.S. agricultural and food products will most likely be listed," the report added.

China's commerce ministry and the U.S. embassy in Beijing did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

China is the biggest market for U.S. agricultural products, and the sector has long been vulnerable to being used as a punching bag in times of trade tensions.

"Despite a decline in imports since 2018, any tariffs on key U.S. agricultural products like soybeans, meat and grains could have a significant impact on U.S.-China trade as well as U.S. exporters and farmers," said Genevieve Donnellon-May, a researcher at the Oxford Global Society.

"The U.S. agricultural sector has had time to prepare for a second Trump administration and trade war 2.0, with lessons learned from the first Trump administration," she added.

"So, in theory, it should be in a better place to find alternative markets. However, the reality may prove far more complex."

China's most active soymeal and rapeseed meal futures, already underpinned by a supply shortage, each surged 2.5% after the Global Times report. The soymeal contract on the Dalian Commodities Exchange hit its highest since Sept 30, 2024.

The world's top agricultural importer and second-largest economy brought in $29.25 billion worth of U.S agriculture products in 2024, a 14% drop from a year earlier, extending a 20% decline seen in 2023.

Global Times, which is owned by the newspaper of the governing Communist Party, People's Daily, was first to report the steps China planned to take in response to the European Union slapping tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles last year.

Trump's announcement left Beijing with less than a week to come up with countermeasures or strike a deal. The proposed extra levies also coincide with the start to China's annual meeting of parliament, a political set piece event at which Beijing is expected to roll out its 2025 economic priorities.

TRUMP TARIFFS TO 'BACKFIRE'

Analysts say Beijing still hopes to negotiate a truce with the Trump administration, but with no signs of any trade talks yet the prospect of a rapprochement between the two economic giants is fading.

"A China-U.S. trade war is not inevitable, but Trump's decision to impose tariffs now is a bad decision," said Wang Dong, executive director of the Institute for Global Cooperation and Understanding at Peking University.

"Trump and his advisors may think that imposing tariffs at this time is to put pressure on China, sending a signal, but this will backfire and China will inevitably respond strongly."

Tit-for-tat tariffs between the two countries during Trump's first term set off a full-blown trade war, upending financial markets and hurting global growth.

This time around, Trump's first salvo of fentanyl-related import duties on Feb. 4 was met by a quick retaliatory move by Beijing.

China announced a series of wide ranging countermeasures targeting U.S. businesses including Google and the owner of fashion brand Calvin Klein, and fresh import duties on U.S. coal, oil and some autos.

China's commerce ministry said on Friday that it hoped to return to negotiations with the U.S. as soon as possible, warning that failure to do so could trigger retaliation.

State media said top Chinese Communist Party officials met the same day and vowed to take steps to prevent any external shocks to China's economy.

The Politburo meeting comes a week after the White House released an America First investment memorandum which placed China on a list of "foreign adversaries."

ANALYSIS-Beef prices may rise as Canadian ranchers shrink cattle herds, fearing Trump tariffs

Canadian farmer Jon Vaags quit buying beef cattle in November after the election of U.S. President Donald Trump made tariffs on Canadian exports seem like a serious risk.

Now there are more than 1,000 empty spaces on his feedlot, where cattle are fattened on grain before being slaughtered for beef. "We stopped buying feeder cattle altogether," said Vaags, whose family's feedlot has room for 3,000 cattle and is usually full from November until the summer. After years of drought raised feed costs, North American farmers culled animals and did not rebuild their herds, so the beef cattle population on both sides of the border had been declining even before the threat of U.S. tariffs on Canadian exports. Canada, the world's No. 8

beef exporter and 10th largest cattle producer, exports more than half its beef production, with 75% going to the U.S. The Trump administration has repeatedly listed lower food prices as a major objective.

But at U.S. grocery stores, beef prices have already risen due to the smallest U.S. cattle herd in 74 years and the smallest Canadian herd in 36 years. The average price of ground beef in U.S. cities has risen 43% since the beginning of 2020, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Global beef prices are up 34% according to the International Monetary Fund. Historically, cows, calves, breeding stock, slaughter animals and beef-in-boxes have flowed across the U.S.-Canada border as if it were not there. Canada imports many young cattle from the U.S., fattens them, slaughters them, then sends the meat back to the U.S. Tariffs would upend this process. Trump has threatened 25% tariffs on most imports from Canada and Mexico. The U.S. cannot easily replace Canadian beef. It is already in a beef deficit and importing from as far away as Australia. Canadian beef fills in where there is not enough U.S. beef. Canada's government-backed lender Farm Credit Canada would like farmers to expand their herds to grow the country's beef industry, but says tariffs are discouraging ranchers. Some Canadian cattle ranchers "might sit this one out for 12 months, sit this one out for six months," said Farm Credit Canada's chief economist JP Gervais of Trump's tariff threats.

'KILLING THE BUSINESS'

The impact of a declining cattle herd is trickling down to other agricultural businesses in North America, including the sale of grains purchased up to a year ahead of time to fatten cattle.

"It's killing the business," said Jim Beusekom, president of Market Place Commodities, a feedgrains trader in Alberta's "feedlot alley."

Without looming tariffs, high meat prices may have encouraged some Canadian farmers to replenish their herds. Instead, prices are prompting many to cash out by sending all the animals they can, including aging cows and young female breeding stock, into the meat market. Canada's cow and calf herd at the start of 2025 was 0.7% lower than in January 2024, which was 2.1% lower than in 2023. At 10.9 million head it is the smallest since 1988, according to Statistics Canada. Curtis Vander Heyden, who runs three feed lots with his two brothers in Alberta, estimates one truckload of fattened cattle would face a $28,000 bill due to tariffs. U.S. buyers will balk at the price jump, either refusing to pay more than they would for U.S. cattle, or just not buying Canadian animals at all, he thinks. But Vander Heyden wants to retain his workforce, so he is not reducing his cattle-feeding operations.

"I can't stop. We have employees. There are a lot of families depending on us," said Vander Heyden.

MARKET MONITOR as of 07:45 GMT

Contract	Last	Change	YTD
NYMEX Light Crude	$69.94 / bbl	0.26%	-2.48%
NYMEX RBOB Gasoline	$2.23 / gallon	0.50%	11.16%
ICE Gas Oil	$689.75 / tonne	-0.14%	-0.79%
NYMEX Natural Gas	$3.80 / mmBtu	-0.81%	4.68%
Spot Gold	$2,860.26 / ounce	0.06%	9.01%
Carbon ECX EUA	€72.35 / tonne	1.90%	-0.89%
Dutch gas day-ahead (Pre. close)	€44.55 / Mwh	-1.66%	-8.24%
CBOT Corn	$4.70 / bushel	0.05%	0.86%
CBOT Wheat	$5.60 / bushel	0.72%	-0.49%
Malaysia Palm Oil (3M)	RM4,485 / tonne	-1.52%	0.00%
Index	**Close 28 Feb**	**Change**	**YTD**
Thomson Reuters/Jefferies CRB	365.48	-1.36%	2.43%
Rogers International	29.91	-1.50%	2.40%
U.S. Stocks - Dow	43,840.91	1.39%	3.05%
U.S. Dollar Index	107.30	-0.29%	-1.09%
U.S. Bond Index (DJ)	447.29	0.34%	2.58%

Top News - Metals

COLUMN-Critical minerals take centre stage in world politics: Andy Home

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy is set to meet with U.S. President Donald Trump today to sign a critical minerals deal as a way of securing continued U.S. backing in the war against Russia.

It initially started as a rare earths deal before someone realised that Ukraine doesn't actually have too much in the way of these 17 esoteric metals.

The draft text on the proposed Reconstruction Investment Fund therefore simply refers to "deposits of minerals, hydrocarbons, oil and gas". Mortgaging Ukrainian security against its mineral wealth comes with a long-dated pay-back. The clue is in the word "deposits". Finding mineral deposits is the easy part. Mining them is more difficult. Processing them is more difficult still.

But the deal is a sign that after a century of oil politics we're now entering a new age of metal politics.

WHAT LIES BENEATH THE SURFACE?

If Ukraine has a lot of rare earths, it's news to the U.S. Geological Survey, which doesn't include the country in its list of either top producers or largest reserves.

The handful of rare earth deposits that Ukraine hosts haven't been surveyed since Soviet times.

In mining terms, we don't even know the size or composition of the resource, let alone whether it could qualify as a reserve deemed economically viable for extraction. Ukraine does have confirmed reserves of other critical metals such as titanium and lithium but getting them out of the ground is a whole bigger challenge. Mining requires infrastructure and power, both in short supply in Ukraine after three years of war. Even assuming any deposits can be mined profitably, there's the not so little question of how to process raw material into metal. China dominates so many critical mineral supply chains not because it has the largest ore reserves but because it has mastered the mid-stream part of the production cycle. It's also starting to leverage this technical know-how by restricting exports of critical metal processing technology, making it even harder for the West to catch up. In short, it's going to be a good while before Ukraine can deliver on its part of the minerals deal by monetising what is still in the ground.

METALS REVOLUTION

China's dominance is why the United States and Europe are so desperate to secure their own critical mineral supply chains.

But it's a metallic revolution that is driving that hunger. A 20th century landline telephone only needed a length of copper wire to work. An Apple iPhone still contains copper but it also needs aluminium, cobalt, gold, lithium, tin, tungsten and a sprinkling of rare earths for you to be able to make a call. Now consider what goes into a more advanced bit of technology such as an F-35 stealth fighter jet. Metals are no longer just bits of hard stuff to bang into shape but are used in increasingly complex combinations in what is more akin to inorganic chemistry than traditional metal-working. The poster-child for modern metallurgy is the lithium-ion battery, which comes in multiple chemistries each using a slightly different combination of metal inputs. The first commercial battery only appeared in 1991 but the technology has rapidly evolved to become the core driver of the transition to electric vehicles, which is why the West is racing to build out its own battery metals supply chain. And while Trump may not think much of electric vehicles, he knows how important metals are to the U.S. military. Indeed, it was Trump in his first term who declared critical minerals a national emergency.

METALLIC POKER

Critical metals have become the new bargaining chip on the geopolitical card table.

Trump has also set his sights on Greenland, which does have accredited reserves, including of rare earths, but which is behind even Ukraine in having the infrastructure to get them out of the ground. Vladimir Putin has been quick to join the metallic poker game, pointing out that Russia boasts considerably more rare earths than Ukraine if the United States is interested. He'll even throw in two million tonnes of primary aluminium a year since he's heard the United States might be a bit short of the stuff if it goes ahead and puts tariffs on imports from Canada, its largest supplier. Which rather begs the question of whether Trump may not be better looking closer to home if he's really that keen on getting rare earths and other critical metals. Canada has lots of them, is a mining friendly jurisdiction and has extensive metals processing capacity. But Trump seems to have thrown out the previous administration's concept of "friend-shoring". Or maybe it's the list of friends that has changed. Either way, the minerals deal with Ukraine is unlikely to be the last of its kind. As metals become a geopolitical currency, Ukraine is not the only country looking to play the metals card. The Democratic Republic of Congo is trying and failing to fight back the M23 rebel group, which has seized the two largest cities in the east of the country. The country's president Felix Tshisekedi touted a Ukraine-style deal in an interview with the New York Times, offering future supplies of the country's critical minerals, particularly cobalt, for Western assistance. Such is the new age of metals diplomacy. You're going to be hearing a lot more about a bunch of elements in the periodic table that you've never heard of, even though you're using them every day.

(The opinions expressed here are those of the author, a columnist for Reuters.)

EXCLUSIVE-Canada to extend mineral exploration tax credit for two more years, minister says

Canada will extend a tax credit on mineral exploration for two additional years as part of the government's move to support investment in exploration projects, energy, and natural resources, Natural Resources Minister Jonathan Wilkinson said on Sunday.

The mineral exploration tax credit is a capital market tool that offers investors a 15% tax credit to invest in flow-through shares of smaller mining companies. It was set to expire on March 31.

Wilkinson said the extension is to ensure that the mining sector has the tools to raise capital for exploration projects. The move is also an attempt by the government to provide companies with an alternative source of capital to China.

Canada has maintained a tough stance against investments from Chinese state-owned enterprises in domestic mining companies. It has asked at least five companies to divest investments from Chinese state-owned enterprises in Canadian-listed companies.

"There was some degree of anxiety on the part of the sector, especially the juniors (exploration companies), whether it's going to be renewed," Wilkinson said in an interview.

The extension is expected to provide C$110 million ($76.05 million) to support mineral exploration investment, he added.

The extension will be announced during the annual Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) conference in Toronto, one of the world's largest gatherings of mining companies and their financiers, which starts on Sunday.

Miners are bracing for a possible trade war in North America unleashed by U.S. president Donald Trump, who is threatening to impose a 25% tariff on most Canadian goods.

Miners are also watching for tougher controls on the export of critical minerals from China. Wilkinson said that Canada has pitched a mutually beneficial partnership to the U.S. by offering Washington a secure supply of critical minerals such as germanium and gallium.

"There are specific types of critical minerals that Canada has that China has been providing in large quantities to the United States, that they have now banned the export (of) into the United States," he said.

Wilkinson said his argument to U.S. officials has been that it is far better to talk about how the U.S. and Canada can help each other. Canada has prepared retaliatory measures in case Trump proceeds with tariffs on Canada and Mexico.

While Canada might not impose an export tax on metals in the first round of its counter-tariff measures, it is considering one on commodities such as zinc, copper, and nickel in the future.

"That may not be the first order of business, but certainly those are tools in the Canadian toolbox, and we're not taking any tools out right now," Wilkinson said.

Mining giants however have been demanding much more from governments. Mike Henry, Chief Executive Officer of BHP on Sunday in a speech at PDAC said that Canada's competitiveness has dropped compared to other countries that are emerging as new mining destinations and issuing faster permitting process for miners.

"Past success is not an indicator of future success," Henry said referring to Australia and Canada, adding that even though BHP has had positive experience in Canada, the experience of other companies might not be the same. BHP is developing a potash mine in Saskatchewan Canada, which when it comes to production will be of the biggest investments ever made by a mining company in the country.

Top News - Carbon & Power

COLUMN-Shell's LNG optimism for Asia has a volume vs price conundrum: Russell

It's not really a surprise that one of the world's largest liquefied natural gas companies is bullish about the long-term view for the super-chilled fuel, but Shell's outlook also has inherent contradictions.

Shell released its annual LNG outlook last week and forecast that demand will surge about 60% from current levels by 2040, largely driven by strong economic growth in Asia, the impact of artificial intelligence and the need to cut emissions in heavy industries and transportation.

Global LNG demand will rise to between 630 million and 718 million metric tons by 2040, up from 407 million tons in 2024, Shell said.

Drilling down into Shell's forecasts reveals a significant potential supply gap, with the London-listed major estimating that LNG supply will rise by 170 million tons from current levels by 2030.

Putting together the 407 million tons of demand in 2024 with the additional 170 million of supply, gives a total of 577 million by 2030.

This is 141 million tons short of Shell's upper range of 2040 demand, meaning that in the decade between 2030 and 2040 LNG producers would have to bring on a significant volume of supply.

The question for the market is whether it's likely that LNG companies have the ability to actually increase supply by that much and, if they do, what kind of price incentives will be necessary to make sure the investments happen.

It's here that the contradiction in Shell's outlook becomes more apparent.

If demand is going to rise as strongly as Shell expects, it's likely the price of LNG will have to remain competitive against alternatives, especially in Asia, the top-importing continent and a key driver of the bullish demand forecasts.

However, if LNG prices are going to remain affordable on a relative basis to coal and renewable energies, then LNG producers will find it harder to secure the massive capital needed to fund the huge expansion needed.
In other words, in the coming decades LNG companies likely have a choice between higher volumes or higher prices, but can't have both.
This isn't spelled out in the Shell outlook, which doesn't make long-term price forecasts, but it's difficult to construct a scenario where both LNG volumes and prices are strong.
This is especially the case in Asia, where the three most populous countries with the highest potential growth in energy demand also happen to be the three biggest producers of coal.
China, India and Indonesia produce more than 6 billion tons of coal annually and have strong incentives to keep doing so from a cost and energy security perspective.
China is also the world's biggest producer of renewable energy and added 355 gigawatts of wind and solar generation capacity in 2024.
China boosted its imports of LNG in 2024, with customs data showing arrivals of 76.65 million tons, the second-highest on record.
But looking at the recent monthly data underscores the challenges facing the LNG sector.

PRICE IMPACT
China's LNG imports for February were just 4.47 million tons, the lowest in five years, according to data compiled by commodity analysts Kpler.
Apart from a strong December, China's LNG imports have been trending lower since September, and even December's 7.58 million tons was below the 8.20 million from December 2023.
China is the world's biggest LNG buyer, but it also has a track record of being sensitive to prices, pulling back on spot cargoes when the price rises.
The recent trend of lower imports has come at a time when spot prices are elevated, given Europe's demand has been high amid cold weather and further reductions in pipeline supply from Russia with the end of shipments through Ukraine at the start of the year.
Spot Asian LNG prices reached $16.10 per million British thermal units (mmBtu) in the week to February 14, and while they have since eased to $13.50 last week, they have been above the $13 level since mid-October.
The current price is also some 63% higher than the $8.30 per mmBtu that prevailed in the week to February 23 last year.
The high prices have dulled Asia's appetite for LNG with Kpler estimating the continent imported 20.93 million tons in February, the lowest monthly total since April 2023.
For Shell's bullish 2040 forecast for LNG demand to come to fruition, the link between prices and demand in Asia will have to be weakened.
LNG companies will also have to invest massive amounts of capital and at the same time be prepared to accept weaker prices for their new production.

(The views expressed here are those of the author, a columnist for Reuters.)

Geo-data firm Fugro says US hydrocarbon and LNG projects resumed after Trump win
Dutch geological data specialist Fugro has restarted multiple projects in the U.S. hydrocarbon and LNG sectors since Donald Trump's election and is optimistic about offshore wind development in Asia and Europe, its CEO told Reuters on Friday.
Mark Heine said the U.S. government had issued licenses put on hold by the former administration of Joe Biden, without giving any further details on the U.S. projects.
U.S. renewables projects that had not yet secured permits or power purchase agreements were now in doubt, he said, predicting that operators would move to Europe. Offshore wind represents 7% of Fugro's turnover in the Americas.
Trump in January issued an order to pause new federal offshore wind leasing, while promising to focus on his policies on maximizing already record-high U.S. oil and gas production.
Fugro is "very optimistic" on offshore wind market trends in Europe and Asia, notably in South Korea and Japan, which are actively developing.
It expects the recently announced EU Clean Industrial Deal to boost offshore wind development and support the 27-member bloc's transition to cleaner fuels, which will benefit the group.
"It comes at the right time because operators will move their investment capacity to Europe and it will boost the renewable energy in Europe," Heine said.
Fugro posted adjusted EBIT at 71.8 million euros ($74.69 million) in the fourth quarter, ahead of a company-compiled consensus of 54 million euros, sending its shares up 5.6% at 0852 GMT after they rose as much as 11%.
However, the group's fourth-quarter revenue, which came slightly below analysts' expectations, was affected by political uncertainties in the U.S., with further setbacks anticipated in the first half of the year.
In the Americas, which makes up 22% of the group revenue, sales were down 11.5% organically in the fourth quarter at 137.8 million euros, due to uncertainty associated with U.S. elections and potential policy changes, notably impacting the geophysical business line.

Top News - Dry Freight

Rio Tinto resumes operations at Western Australia's Dampier port after five weeks

Rio Tinto said that its iron ore export facility in Western Australia's Dampier port resumed operations after being offline for over five weeks due to flooding from tropical cyclones.

"A railcar dumper at the East Intercourse Island (EII) port facility was flooded when Tropical Cyclone Sean delivered record rain... Dumper operation at EII resumed last week and the first ship was loaded today," Rio said in a statement.

Rio, in its full-year results, had stated it expects to record total losses of 13 million metric tons of iron ore due to tropical cyclones that have hit Australia's west coast and disrupted shipments.

"The extent of the outage suggest they won't be able to get to the midpoint of guidance," said RBC analyst Kaan Peker in Sydney. Rio, world's biggest iron ore producer, also kept its full-year iron ore shipment guidance from Western Australia for 2025 unchanged at 323 million to 338 million metric tons.

The cyclone season in Western Australia usually runs from November to April.

"As the system rebalances and normal operations resume, an update will be provided in the first quarter operations review on April 16", Rio said in a statement.

Rio had reported underlying earnings of $10.87 billion in February, missing Visible Alpha consensus estimate of $11 billion.

Shares of the mining giant were up 1.9% as of 0134 GMT, while the broader benchmark ASX 200 was up 0.3%.

South Korea’s MFG bought around 65,000 metric tons U.S. feed wheat

South Korea's Major Feedmill Group (MFG) purchased about 65,000 metric tons of animal feed wheat expected to be sourced from the United States in a private deal on Friday without issuing an international tender, European traders said.

One consignment was purchased at an estimated $265.68 a ton cost and freight included (c&f) plus a $1.50 a ton surcharge for additional port unloading.

It was believed to have been sold by trading house CJ International with shipment from the U.S. Pacific Northwest coast between May 20 and June 11.

Reports reflect assessments from traders and further estimates of prices and volumes are still possible later.

Picture of the Day

Finnish Border Guard's ship Turva escorts Cook Islands-registered oil tanker Eagle S out to sea on the Baltic, March 2, 2025 near Porvoo, Finland in handout picture released by the Finnish Border Guard. Lehtikuva/Finnish Border Guard/Handout via REUTERS

(Inside Commodities is compiled by Nachiket Tekawade in Bengaluru)

For questions or comments about this report, contact: **commodity.briefs@thomsonreuters.com**

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