

History

The first liquefaction of gas, *id est* transformation of the gas state into the liquid state was performed by a British physicist and chemist Michael Faraday (1791–1867).

In 1883, two professors from the Jagiellonian University - Zygmunt Wróblewski and Karol Olszewski – managed to liquefy oxygen and nitrogen from atmospheric air. However, cooling and liquefaction technologies that can be implemented in cooling equipment were patented in 1896 by a German engineer and entrepreneur Karl Paul Gottfried von Linde, who in 1873 constructed the first cooling equipment in Europe.

However, the first cooler in the world appeared in Australia and was designed and built by a Scotsman - James Harrison, printer and journalist by profession. The original technological concept served to cool the air and was put into use for the first time in the foods sector.

The cooling and liquefaction technology of natural gas was implemented for the first time in the United States. The first facility for liquefying LNG was opened in western Virginia in 1917, and the first commercial liquefaction facility was constructed in Cleveland, Ohio (USA) in 1941.

The first transport of Liquefied Natural Gas took place after the Second World War. In January 1959, “The Methane Pioneer”, an adapted transporter ship that was used in the Second World War, sailed out of Lake Charles in Louisiana (USA) with a load including LNG, in order to reach its destination - Canvey Island in Great Britain.

After the first and subsequent seven successful transports of LNG via ships, the British Gas Council decided to import LNG from Venezuela. However, in connection with the discovery of deposits in Libya and Algeria, countries located much nearer Great Britain than Venezuela it was ultimately decided to import LNG from Algeria, which thus became the first exporter of LNG in the world. The first commercial delivery of LNG from Algeria to the British market took place in 1964. LNG supplies to Great Britain did not withstand the competition with deposits discovered in the North Sea.

The 70's and 80's brought a heightened interest in LNG. In Asian countries, mainly Japan and Korea, the construction of power plants were commenced which were intended to be fuelled by natural gas. This significantly contributed to better conditions for harnessing LNG.