Galileo Technologies, in partnership with SPATCO Energy Solutions has just commissioned an innovative solution for Terra Energy in North Dakota’s Bakken shale region to integrate flare gas capture and liquefied natural gas (LNG) production right at the wellhead.

The core of this solution, engineered at Galileo Technologies’ headquarters in Buenos Aires, Argentina, includes a ZPTS® Gas Conditioning Plant, and a Cryobox® Nano LNG-Station, which turns natural gas into 7,800 to 8,500 gallons (12.3 to 13.4 Tons) of LNG per day based on production output from the wells. The equipment is fully modular, electric driven and reliable when operating under the harsh conditions of North Dakota’s oil fields, which are home to frigid winters and scorching summers.

Thanks to this innovative design, the LNG produced is stored on-site while the boil-off gas is recovered and re-liquefied. LNG is then transported and consumed for drill-rig power generation and frac-water heating.

LNG is obtained through the gas from a well pad owned and operated by one of the largest producers and holders of natural gas reserves in the US, located less than 50 miles (80 km) from the sites where LNG is consumed. “This is a complete solution,” said Dustin Hancock, President of Terra Energy Group. “We turned the flaring problem into an opportunity. The technology supplied by Galileo allows us to significantly reduce the waste of flaring using that energy to produce additional oil and gas.”

“The abundance of shale and tight gas in certain regions, such as Bakken in the US or Vaca Muerta in Argentina, increases the relevance of natural gas as a source of clean energy. However, the dispersion of shale gas sources in these isolated areas can make the laying of gas-gathering lines economically unsustainable and creates an environmental problem,” explained Osvaldo Del Campo, Galileo Technologies CEO.
We turned the flaring problem into an opportunity

“In recent years and due to this barrier, more than 25% of the natural gas produced in North Dakota has been flared rather than sold to customers or consumed on-site. We believe that more of the unconventional gas can be monetized through methods such as the ‘Distributed LNG Production’ solution we developed for Terra Energy,” added Del Campo.

“When long distances are involved, our ultra-compact gas conditioning and liquefaction modules allow us to distribute clean natural gas, affordably and without pipelines. This technology facilitates the collection of fuel from scattered sources and its distribution to consumers, applying road distribution logistics similar to those of other liquid fuels,” he concluded.

“As gas capture requirements continue to ramp up, expecting to reach 90% by 2020, Galileo’s liquefaction technology will give the upstream oil & gas sector a means to master their challenges with profitability,” remarked Jeff Dailey, President and CEO of SPATCO Energy Solutions.

“The industry is experienced in the use of compressed natural gas (CNG) to reduce flaring, so LNG represents the advantage of cheaper distribution, beyond 100 miles (150 km). LNG just makes more sense if we consider that the industry needs to fuel high horsepower applications at remote locations, such as rigs, frac crews, heavy duty trucking and railways,” Dailey added.

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SPATCO Energy Solutions is a North American distributor of Galileo Technologies’ equipment. As a Blue Ridge Industries company, it has served the petroleum, industrial and natural gas sector for nearly 90 years. With nine branches located throughout the U.S., SPATCO is a single source supplier of equipment and services such as electrical services and installations, turnkey projects, batching systems, and service/repair.

Terra Energy Group origin is based on midstream and downstream liquid energy trading, logistics and distribution. Their partners are experienced in designing, executing, constructing, and operating resources for the trade, transportation and transfer of crude oil, refined petroleum products and liquefied natural gas.

Galileo Technologies

Since 1987, Galileo Technologies has become a global reference in modular technologies for both CNG and LNG production and transportation. Its products portfolio includes the widest range of compressors and pumps for vehicles and vessels; pipeline boosters and wellhead compressors; and the Virtual Pipeline™ system, for gas shipment by road, thus reaching remote communities and industries without pipeline network connection. Based in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and with a Global Service and Training Hub in Los Angeles, USA, Galileo exports and provides ongoing assistance to customers in 65 countries in Latin America, North America, Europe, Africa and Asia.