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## DEVELOPMENT OF THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY IN UZBEKISTAN

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### Abstract

Uzbekistan is the third producer of gas production in Eurasia, which began in 1953. However, it has not been able to become a major gas exporter due to its high domestic consumption. The gas industry has always been and remains the most important component of the country's economy, and to a large extent determines its current state and the pace of further development. This is explained by the fact that gas as a final product, as a semi-finished product for subsequent processing, and as a component of various technological processes is widely used in many spheres of human life. It is hardly possible today to imagine life without "blue fuel".

**Key words:** Uzbekistan, oil and gas sector, gas processing complexes, oil and gas fields, gas pipelines.

The oil and gas industry in Uzbekistan is one of the main directions of economic development, ensuring the country's security and energy independence. Huge deposits of gaseous hydrocarbons form the basis of energy and economic security. Taking this into account, the oil and gas industry was set such tasks as: increasing the reserves and production of hydrocarbon resources through the development of new fields, deepening oil and gas processing in order to produce products with high added value.

Currently, the share of gas in the fuel balance of Uzbekistan is 20%, Russia is 62%, and in the European part of the country it is 86%. Uzbekistan is an important country in the region, as it is located in the heart of Central Asia, and is the only country that borders all other States in the region. It has significant reserves of hydrocarbon resources.

Uzbekistan ranks 10th in the world in terms of natural gas consumption. The oil and gas industry accounts for about 16% of the national GDP and more than 20% of the budget revenue. According to the BP World Energy Statistics Survey for 2020, Uzbekistan's total natural gas reserves amount to 1.2 trillion cubic meters. Current domestic production is estimated at approximately 61 billion cubic meters. In 2020, it is mainly used to meet high domestic consumption, which is estimated at 45 billion cubic meters of gas in 2020.

Currently, Uzbekistan is actively working with leading foreign companies, such as Russian oil and gas companies PJSC LUKOIL, PJSC Gazprom, Chinese CNPC (China National Petroleum Corporation), KNOC (Korea), «Epsilon Development Company of the USA, Uzbekneftegaz.

The most important region for gas production in Uzbekistan is the Bukhara-Khiva region, where more than two-thirds of gas is produced, Kyzyl-Kum, and the discovery of the Gasli oil and gas field in the Romitan region of Bukhara region is considered an

important event for the gas industry of Uzbekistan. The initial gas reserves at the field were about 500 billion cubic meters. m. Other oil and gas regions in Uzbekistan are Kashkadarya- Hissar district, Ustyurt Ferghana, Khorezm, Middle Syrdarya and Zarafshan.

Our country's gas transmission system is one of the most developed. Gas pipelines have been laid in all regions and their total length is 13250 km. Uzbekist still considers ther territory of Gazli as a gas transportation hub. For example, we can say that the Gazli mine in Bukhara was even the starting point of the gas system of the former Soviet Union. The Gazli mine also has a gas storage facility, which allows storing 3 billion cubic meters of gas annually and using it in winter.

Currently, our network includes 393 gas distribution stations, 25 compressorx stations, which operate 250 units. They serve to supply gas from one point to another.

One of their most important points is – the Central-Asian gas pipeline system, which has a capacity of up to 100 million m<sup>3</sup> of gas per day.

Geological exploration works are being successfully carried out in the regions, and new deposits are being discovered with their efficient use. Environmental and social audits and tender works are being carried out to modernize the backbone networks. It is possible to increase the connectivity of main gas pipeline systems. Mubarek CSO and Shurtansk CSO gas processing plants are also operating.

According to statistical data, gas production in Uzbekistan at the end of 2022 amounted to 51.67 billion cubic meters, consumption - 48.56 billion, export - 4.07 billion. And in January-July 2023, it amounted to 27.47 billion cubic meters and decreased by 9.5%, or 2.87 billion cubic meters, compared to the same period last year, in particular: at the Mubarak field-305.3billion cubic meters (33%); at the Ustyurt field-259.4 billion cubic meters (28%) at the Shurtan» field - 174.8 billion cubic meters (19%);

Uzbekneftegaz plans to produce 32.8 billion m<sup>3</sup> of natural gas, 1.31 million tons of gas condensate and 61.0 thousand tons of oil for the current year (i.e. for 2024 ).

## Conclusion

Thus, against the background of global problems related to energy consumption, the domestic gas industry looks like a powerful and competitive enterprise that will have to solve many issues. In this regard, there is a need to increase gas production, and, consequently, to discover new fields and maintainaleading position in the production of hydrocarbon energy carriers. The ongoing reforms in Uzbekistan also make a significant contribution to the country's economic success.

The state of the domestic gas industry related to the satisfaction of gas consumers in the domestic and foreign markets allows us to conclude that in the near future, the demand for natural gas will continue as one of the most profitable energy carriers.

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