

News Release

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Axpo and Vitol launch LNG bunkering at Italy's largest cruise port

Axpo and Vitol have completed the first liquefied natural gas (LNG) bunkering operation at the Port of Civitavecchia in Italy, refuelling a flagship vessel of a leading international cruise line.

In brief:

- First ship-to-ship LNG refuelling at Port of Civitavecchia was conducted by Green Pearl, a 7,500 m³ vessel operated by Axpo.
- Launch of LNG bunkering at Europe's second largest cruise port follows introduction at Genoa and Naples.
- Axpo's steady roll-out of LNG refuelling to Italy's major ports boosts development of infrastructure and services for alternative maritime fuels.

Italy's premier cruise port and Europe's second largest now joins Genoa and Naples in offering LNG refuelling services. This represents an important milestone in the development of infrastructure and services for alternative maritime fuels in Italian ports.

Green Pearl, a 7,500 m³ Italian bunkering vessel operated by Axpo, safely conducted the ship-to-ship refuelling operation Sunday morning at Civitavecchia's berth 18. Operated by Axpo, Green Pearl was brought into service in 2026 and is dedicated to ship-to-ship and ship-to-truck bunkering operations in Italian ports.

Axpo Italia CEO Simone Demarchi said: "This latest operation shows the ability of our supply chain to grow rapidly and meet the needs of leading international cruise lines. Over the coming years, the shipping and cruise sectors will be called upon to accelerate their decarbonisation journey. Today, LNG is one of the most substantial and readily available solutions to help support this transition."

Vitol Head of Small Scale LNG & LNG Bunkering Stefan Dubbeldam added: "LNG and bio-LNG have a key role to play in reducing emissions from bunkering. Vitol is globally invested throughout the value chain, from upstream bio-LNG and LNG production and offtake, through to solutions for customers through our LNG Bunker Vessel fleet."

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The extension of Axpo's coverage to Civitavecchia, the primary seaport for Rome, follows the launch of LNG ship-to-ship bunkering at Genoa in late 2025 and Naples in May this year. Axpo is committed to building a dedicated low-emission fuels supply chain for the maritime and heavy transport sectors. In addition to Green Pearl, the company has also chartered Alisios LNG, a new 12,500 m³ capacity bunkering vessel for low-emission fuels, which became operational in Spain last March.

About Axpo

Axpo is driven by a single purpose – to enable a sustainable future through innovative energy solutions. Axpo is Switzerland's largest energy producer and an international leader in energy trading and the marketing of solar and wind power. Axpo combines the experience and expertise of about 7,500 employees who are driven by a passion for innovation, collaboration and impactful change. Using cutting-edge technologies, Axpo innovates to meet the evolving needs of its customers in more than 30 countries across Europe, North America and Asia.

Additional information

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