

NATURAL GAS STORAGE CAVITIES AT MANOSQUE, FRANCE

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SUMMARY

Geomethane, a Group formed by Gaz de France and Geostock, is currently converting, as part of a wider development project, seven of the thirty-six solution-mined salt cavities at Manosque in South-East France to natural gas. The facility, used for liquid hydrocarbons since 1967, is operated by Geosel, a Geostock subsidiary.

The seven cavities lie 900m to 1500m below ground and will operate over a pressure range of 6 MPa to 18 MPa (60-180 bars). Aggregate storage will be 450 million normal cubic metres. The seven cavities will be commissioned over the period 1993-1996.

In view of the large diameter (13 3/8") of the original production wells and safety requirements, a unique high-capacity well completion has been developed for this project. It will have two fail-safe valves and a flow crossover 30m below ground to isolate the production well in the event of problems at the surface.

The project lies in the wooded Luberon Nature Reserve and due consideration has been given to siting the surface plant and blending it with the surroundings. The production wellheads are extra-low designs, the main plant was located outside the sensitive area, and the pipeline routes were landscaped.



fig. 1 GEOMETHANE Cavity platforms