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Solution Mining at Stublach

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Abstract:

Storengy UK is currently developing the Stublach Gas Storage Project, a salt cavern storage facility in Cheshire. Once completed, the scheme will be one of the largest storage facilities in the country and will enhance the security of supply to the UK market. Up to 28 caverns will be created, the first 5 of which are currently trading gas, the next 5 have recently finished solution-mining and will become commercially operational in December 2015. The next 10 cavities are currently being solution-mined. Total storage capacity will reach 400 million cubic meters (14 Bscf) of natural gas.

Solution mining cavities for gas storage at Stublach is a challenge due to high (25%) insoluble content (including a 30 feet marl layer), only 130 m of salt, and substantially fluctuating water flow rates.

To tackle this challenge, Storengy put in place a team of operators based on site guided by solution mining experts based in Paris. The close cooperation between the operators and experts allowed the cavity development to be optimized.

Storengy succeeded in delivering the first 10 cavities on time, at the target volumes, and with desirable shapes.

Key words: Caverns for Gas Storage, Solution Mining, Bedded Salt, Stublach, United Kingdom.

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