

# Preface and acknowledgments

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This book was written out of a desire to learn as much as possible about one of the fastest-growing segments of the energy industry – liquefied natural gas (LNG). When I began my research, massive LNG export projects were underway in the tiny country of Qatar, the US was running out of natural gas and was widely expected to become one of the world’s largest importers of LNG, the global financial crisis had not yet hit markets, and shale gas was not on anyone’s radar. What a difference a few years make!

Qatar is now the world’s largest LNG exporter, having reached its production capacity goal of 77 million tonnes per annum (MTPA). The US is no longer going to be the world’s largest LNG importer but instead may become one of the world’s largest LNG exporters thanks to the shale gas revolution that has swept through that country. While the financial crisis seems to ebb and flow, the interest in natural gas and LNG remains persistent with more and more countries turning to LNG to meet growing energy demand with cleaner burning fuels.

While it is impossible to be an expert on all of the issues involving the complex LNG industry, my goal in writing this book was to identify as many as possible of the key opportunities and challenges for LNG in the coming years with the hope that the book would serve as a useful reference for others interested in learning more about the dynamic LNG industry.

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