

Atacama Gas Pipeline

CMS Energy Corporation

In February 1998, a consortium of Willbros, Victor Contreras, Contreras Hermanos, and Pamar was awarded a contract to construct the easternmost portion of the Atacama Gas Pipeline. The 946-km (588-mile), 20-inch pipeline runs from the Noroeste gas-producing basin in northern Argentina to a new 710-MW, natural gas-fueled power plant in Mejillones, Chile. The pipeline transports high-pressure gas across the Andes Mountains, connecting Argentina's gas markets with northern Chile at a rate of 200-250 MMscfd.

Willbros' involvement with the project began in March 1996 when the company was authorized by CMS to provide a cost estimate for engineering and construction services as well as project materials including line pipe, mainline valve, and launcher and receiver assemblies. Services also provided by Willbros included a desk-top review of preliminary maps, aerial and ground reconnaissance, and preparation of a tentative two-year project schedule.

The consortium was responsible for constructing a 330-km (205-mile), 20-inch segment of the pipeline from the point of origin at Noroeste to a plateau at the base of the Andes near the Chilean border.

Willbros' services were completed in November 1998.

*Project Award
February 1998*

*Project Completion
November 1998*



Argentina