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# Methane hydrates idea bubbles up again in Japan

Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC) said on Tuesday it had for the first time successfully extracted natural gas from methane hydrates under the seabed, opening up a potential source of domestic energy for the energy-hungry country. The move is significant because it is the first extraction of methane hydrate deposits. But the idea of mining methane hydrates is not new – in fact it has been known about for many years, and was seen as the big new unconventional gas source well before the development of shale gas – and the commercial development of methane hydrates is still a long way off.



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