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**Buyer's market: Central Asian pipelines lose out in China supply race**  
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### **Gas Strategies Group**

10 Saint Bride Street  
London UK  
EC4A 4AD

ISSN: 0964-8496

T: +44(0) 20 7332 9900  
W: [www.gasstrategies.com](http://www.gasstrategies.com)  
Twitter @GasStrategies

### **Editorials**

+44(0) 20 7332 9957  
[editor@gasstrategies.com](mailto:editor@gasstrategies.com)

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+44(0) 20 7332 9976  
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# Buyer's market: Central Asian pipelines lose out in China supply race

The first signal to gas exporters that Chinese domestic gas demand had slumped was in Q1'2020, when PetroChina declared force majeure on contracted LNG cargoes in early February. LNG suppliers largely ignored the declaration; some saying the force majeure and deferral requests were due to port constraints, others suggesting they were attempts to renegotiate contracts and reap the benefits of historically competitive LNG cargoes trading on the spot market.

**Consulting**

+44 (0) 20 7332 9900  
[consult@gasstrategies.com](mailto:consult@gasstrategies.com)

**Alphatania Training**

+44 (0) 20 7332 9910  
[training@gasstrategies.com](mailto:training@gasstrategies.com)

**Information Services**

+44 (0) 20 7332 9976  
[subscriptions@gasstrategies.com](mailto:subscriptions@gasstrategies.com)