

8 July 2026

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Publication date: 13 June 2016

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ISSN: 0964-8496

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Chinese unconventional – The slow revolution

China has been the global growth engine of the last decade, devouring all available fossil fuels to keep its wheels churning. IOCs have consequently been hard hit by the country's economic slowdown over the last two years. The International Energy Agency (IEA) recently warned that China's unconventional gas production growth could add further distress to global gas markets; indeed, the country has some of the largest unconventional resources in the world and would arguably have little need for imports should its domestic production take off. Shale gas production in the US changed the global energy landscape. Why has the same not happened in China? In Part 1 of a two-part series, Gas Matters explores the history and key technological challenges of the country's unconventional sector. Part 2 will examine the commercial aspects and competition with pipeline gas and LNG.

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