NextDecade, the LNG development company led by former Royal Dutch Shell senior LNG executive Kathleen Eisbrenner, has formed a partnership with a private investment firm to joint build LNG export plants.

NextDecade said the tie-up with York Capital Management will enable the company to further develop its first LNG export projects in the Texas ports of Brownsville and Galveston.

The two firms plan to work together to conduct additional front-end engineering and design analysis in order to pre-file applications with the Federal Energy Regulatory Committee (FERC) to permit, site, construct and operate the Brownsville and Galveston facilities in the first quarter of 2015.

Eisbrenner is the former Chief Commercial Officer of El Paso Energy's Global LNG business unit, was a founder and CEO of Excelerate Energy of the US, and is the former Executive Vice President of Shell's Global LNG business.

"We are excited to announce York's investment in, and partnership with NextDecade. York has extensive experience investing across the LNG value chain and provides strong backing to support financing for the advancement of NextDecade's LNG export projects.

"We look forward to working closely with the cities of Brownsville and Galveston to maximize the economic impact of these projects for the local communities.

"Based on (i) extensive development work already completed, and (ii) the use of safe, reliable and proven LNG liquefaction technology, while working with strong industrial partners, we are confident we can achieve a Final Investment Decision in a timely and cost effective manner," Eisbrenner stated.

The Galveston project is an onshore development called Pelican Island LNG with plans to produce 9 million tonnes per annum.

The Brownsville venture, called South Texas LNG, is based on two Floating LNG hulls located 7 miles from the Gulf of Mexico and with the capacity to produce 9 MTPA.

NextDecade is also actively committed to developing additional means of economically supplying small-scale LNG volumes to meet the requirements of customers with smaller natural gas demands.

Its "Hub and Spoke" system would operate with LNG being transferred from an FLNG unit either at a North American dockside location or from a Mediterranean FLNG plant, or alternatively reloaded at a third-party's regasification terminal, to a small-scale LNG carrier derived from a tug boat and with 20,000 cubic metres capacity.

NextDecade's investment partner York Capital is a global private investment firm with
offices in New York, London and Hong Kong.

It was founded in 1991 by James G. Dinan and manages over $25 billion in assets while using "investment strategies specializing in arbitrage, special situations and credit opportunities."

York provides companies with capital and works with management teams to achieve returns for their investors.