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## **Israel signs \$15 billion gas deal with Jordan**

Israel signed a memorandum of understanding with Jordan Wednesday, under which it will supply the Hashemite Kingdom with \$15 billion worth of natural gas from its Leviathan energy field over 15 years. The new deal is the largest collaboration with Jordan to date, and will make Israel its chief supplier. "At this time, Israel is becoming an energy superpower, which will supply the energy needs of its neighbors and strengthen its standing as a central source of energy supply in the region, and I welcome it," Israeli Energy Minister Silvan Shalom said in a statement. The Jordanians turned to Israel because their supply of natural gas from Egypt had been halted by repeated terrorist attacks on the gas pipeline from Egypt, a Channel 2 report said. The finds are expected to transform Israel from an energy importer to a major world player in the gas market. The latest deal to date comes after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promised a "new diplomatic horizon," and improved regional ties, in the aftermath of the recent military campaign in the Gaza Strip.