



OLANIWUN  
AJAYI

# **GAS POLICY, MARKET REGULATION: CATALYSING DEVELOPMENT OF GAS INDUSTRIAL HUBS**

**Prof. Konyin Ajayi**

# THE NIGERIAN GAS STORY POTENTIAL

Capable of producing over  
40,000 MW of electricity FOR  
APPROXIMATELY 60 YEARS  
based on a daily production  
rate of

**8.5 billion  
cubic feet  
(bcf)**

Latest reserves  
figures now  
places Nigeria

**7th**  
globally

Gas reserves are about three

**3 times**

the value of crude oil reserves

Gas is known as  
SWEET GAS because it  
contains

**0%**

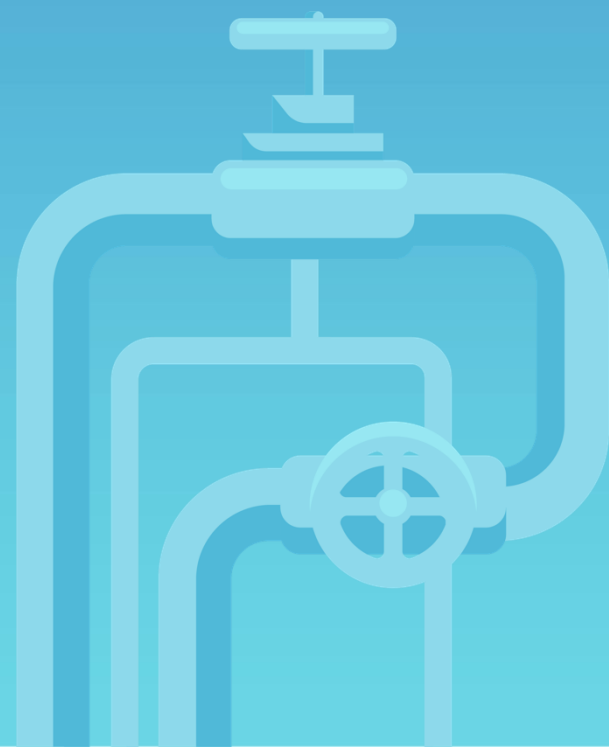
of sulphur and is rich  
in liquids

**Strategically  
placed**

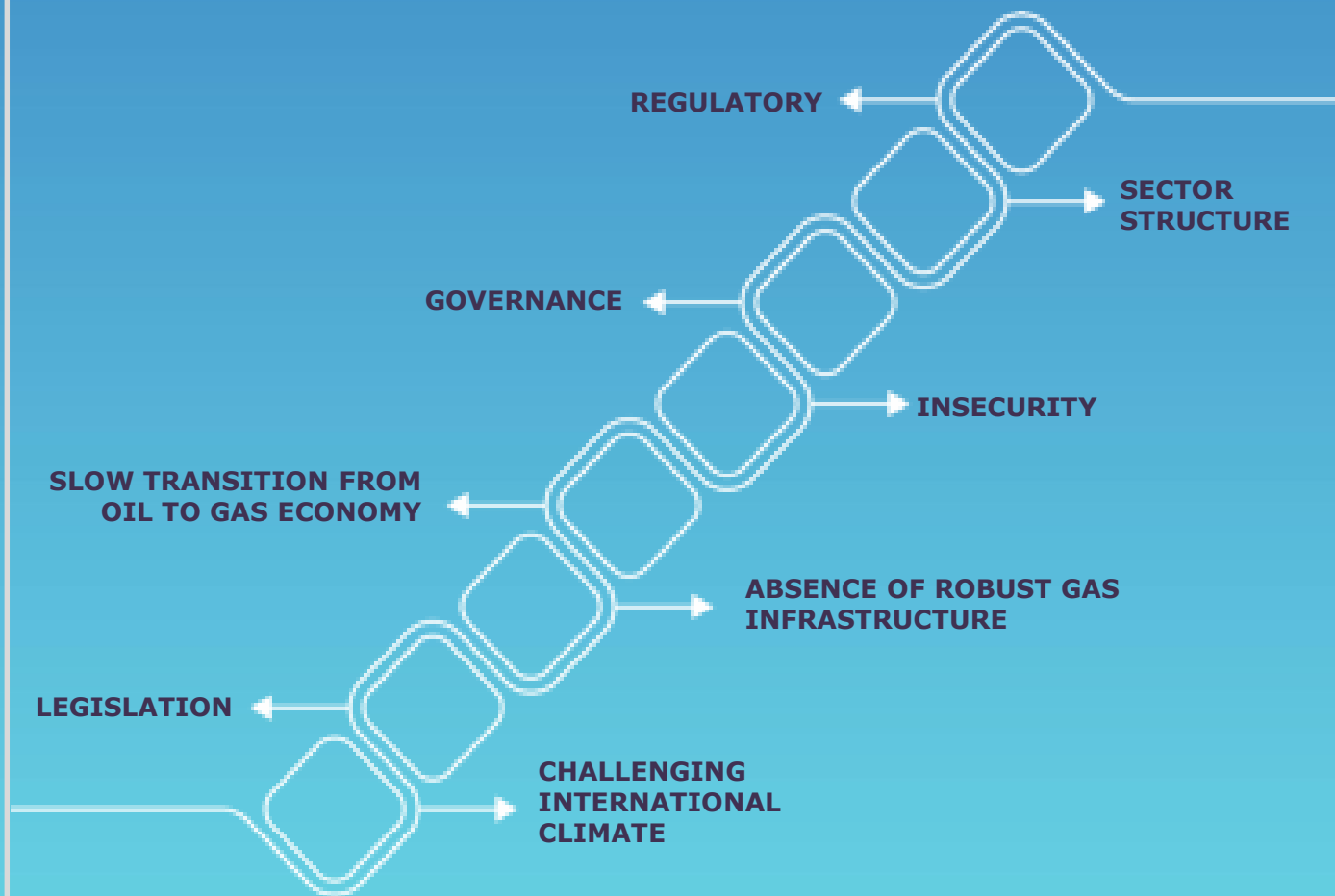
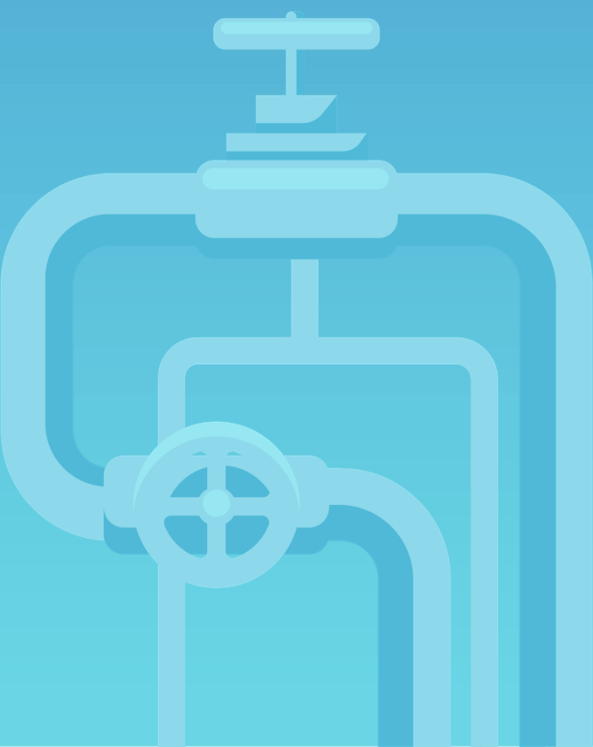
on the MAP to be gas hub for  
Africa and by extension the  
world

Largest natural gas  
reserve in the continent  
of Africa with about

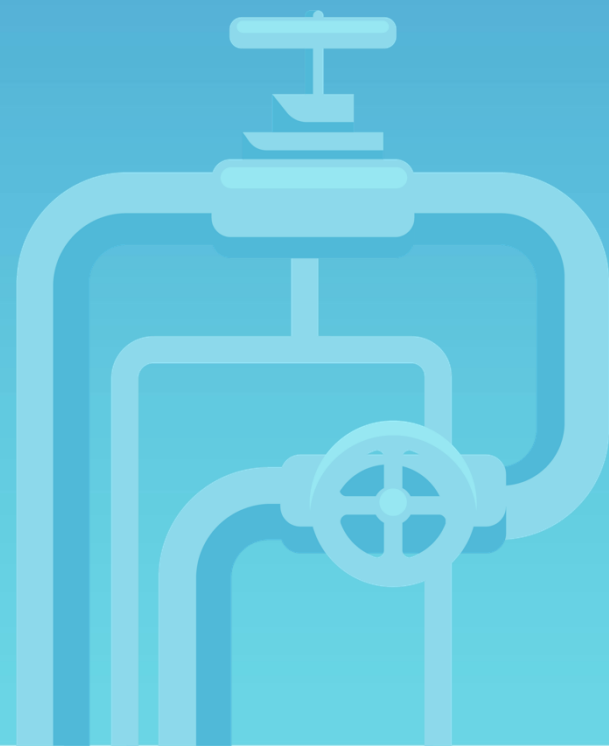
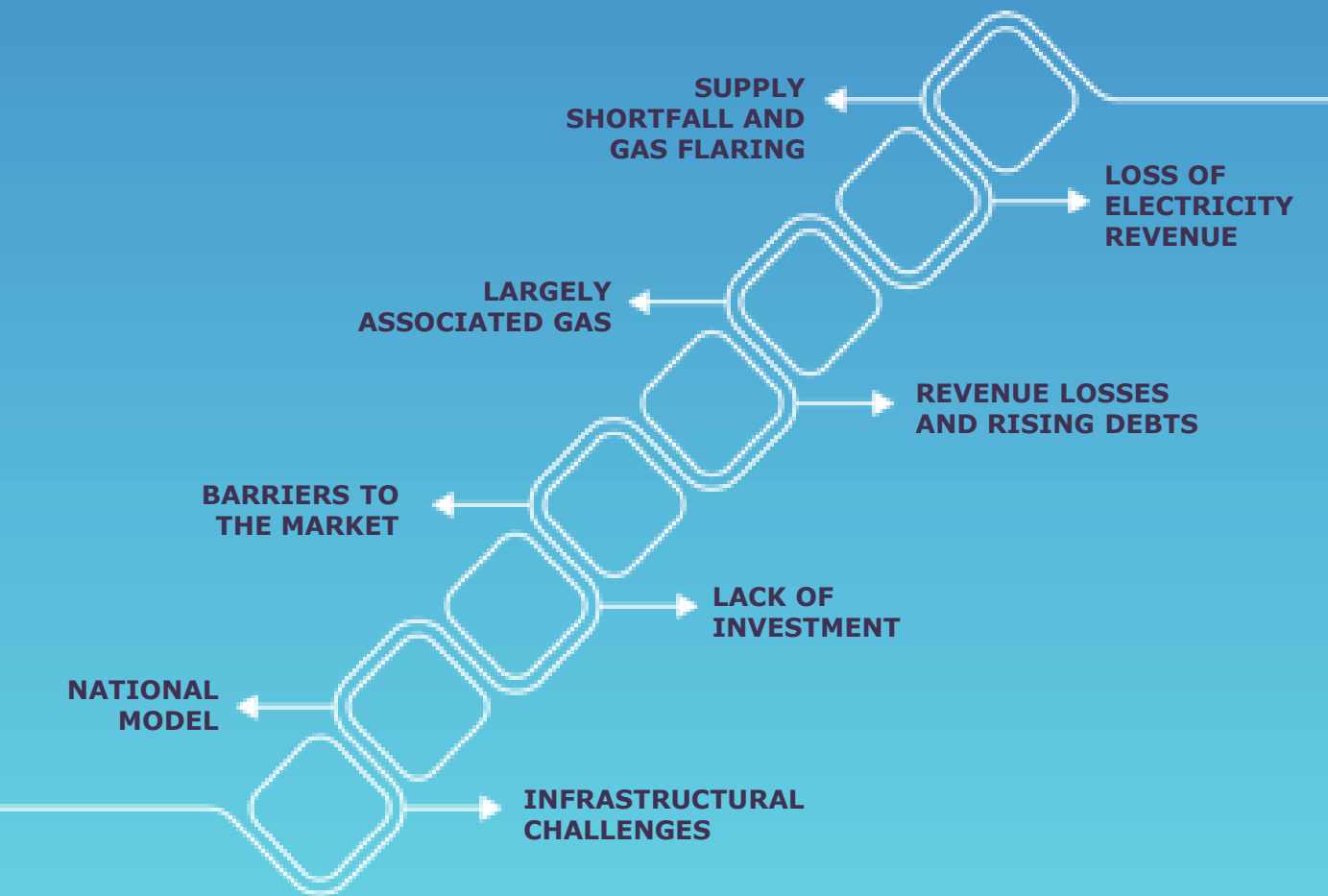
**600 Tcf** of  
unproven reserves



# THE NIGERIAN GAS STORY CHALLENGES

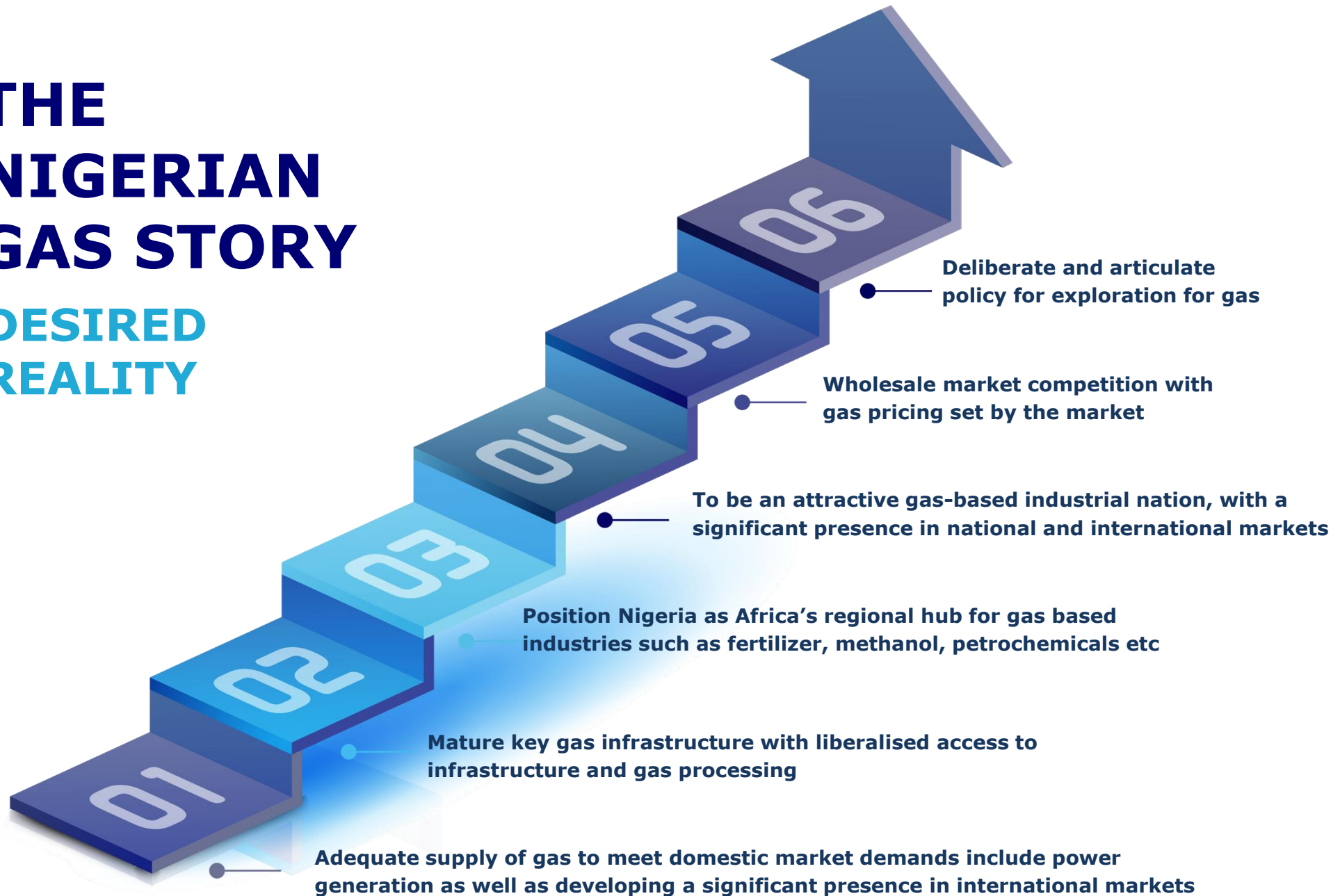


# THE NIGERIAN GAS STORY REALITY



# THE NIGERIAN GAS STORY

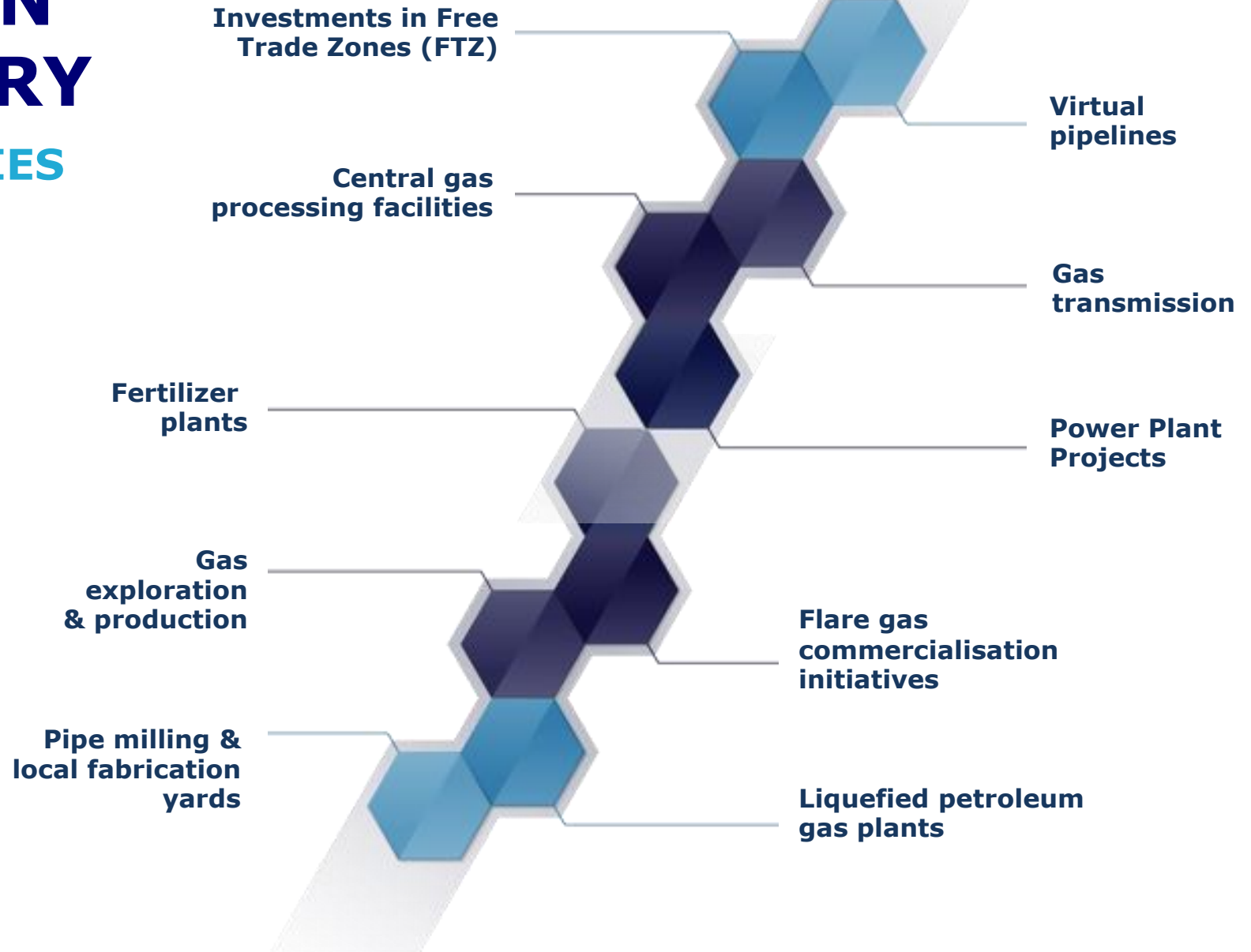
DESIRED  
REALITY



# THE NIGERIAN GAS STORY

## OPPORTUNITIES

About  
**\$51  
billion**  
worth of  
investment  
opportunities  
currently exists  
in Nigeria's gas  
sector



# UNLOCKING OUR GAS POTENTIAL: GAS HUBS

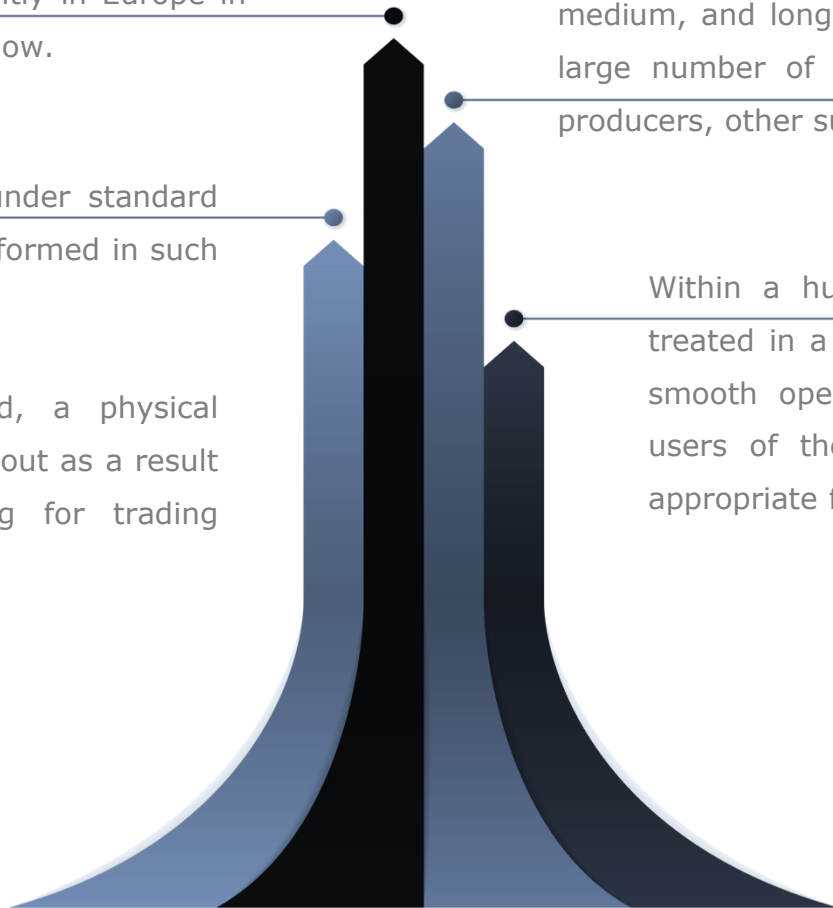
**GAS HUBS:** A common connection point where gas is transported, stored and from which gas is exported and utilised. Initially developed in the US in 1980s, UK in 1990s, more recently in Europe in the 2000s and mulled in East Asia now.

The gas trade at the hub occurs under standard and transparent conditions that are formed in such a way that they boost liquidity.

When a hub is sufficiently liquid, a physical delivery, i. e., the supply, is carried out as a result of multiple trading and searching for trading opportunities.

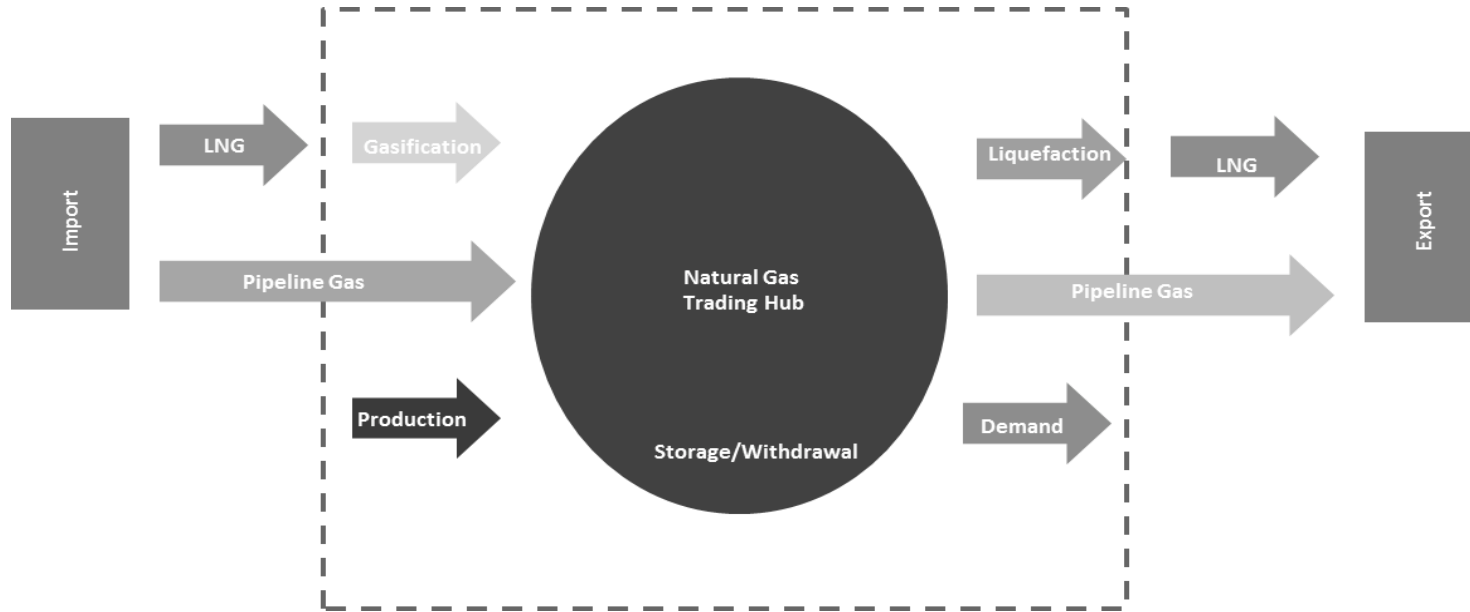
A hub allows the participants of the trading carried out within their operating area to access short, medium, and long-term supplies, as well as access a large number of sellers and buyers (these can be producers, other suppliers or large customers).

Within a hub all the participants have to be treated in a non-discriminatory way. To allow a smooth operation within a hub, the potential users of the hub's services should meet the appropriate financial and industrial standards.





# GAS HUB VALUE CHAIN



## VIRTUAL GAS HUBS

A trading platform defined through a pipeline grid (interconnected pipelines with no point of origin or end) representing the entire country or a trans-regional zone such that the whole transportation grid is defined as being the hub.

Examples include UK's National Balancing Point (NBP); Netherlands Title Transfer Facility (TTF), Frances PEG Nord and Italy's Punto di Scambio Virtuale (PSV).

## PHYSICAL GAS HUBS

A geographical point in the network where a price is set for natural gas delivered on that specific location.

Examples include the Henry Hub in the US and Zeebrugge in Belgium and the Central European Gas Hub.



# GAS HUBS – US, UK, & EUROPE



**Underlying idea** was to foster competition and obtain more competitive commodity business - in short, create a more efficient natural gas marketplace.

**The solution:** Henry Hub, a plethora of pipelines connecting buyers and sellers that converge and serve as a transit point for transportation for consumers, distributors and storage operators. In essence, the whole North American natural gas system operates around a price set by the natural gas exchange at Henry Hub resulting in prices across the US that differ, albeit staying reasonably close together taking into account regional disparities and production and transport costs to that specific regional



In the UK, **concerns** stemmed from the appropriate way to price natural gas (balancing).

When the British natural gas sector was deregulated in the 1990s, the British regulator established a network code that created the virtual National Balancing Point (NBP).

**The solution:** a virtual trading point was established as a daily balancing tool for the entire British geographic area. The NBP price reflects the commodity price in the entire area without geographic differentials due to transport costs.



Currently the European Union prefers to integrate its natural gas markets through the establishment of virtual (regional) trading hubs.

This is a pragmatic approach, since it builds on the existing arrangements of member states (rather than creating one overarching European regulator) and an infrastructure built to facilitate long-term import contracts with national balancing and limited interconnections.

# GAS HUBS – GAINS IN THE US, UK, & EUROPE



## HENRY HUB

- Increase in competition
- US becoming LNG exporter albeit also attributed to the rise of shale gas
- Also increasingly important benchmarks for many E&P companies

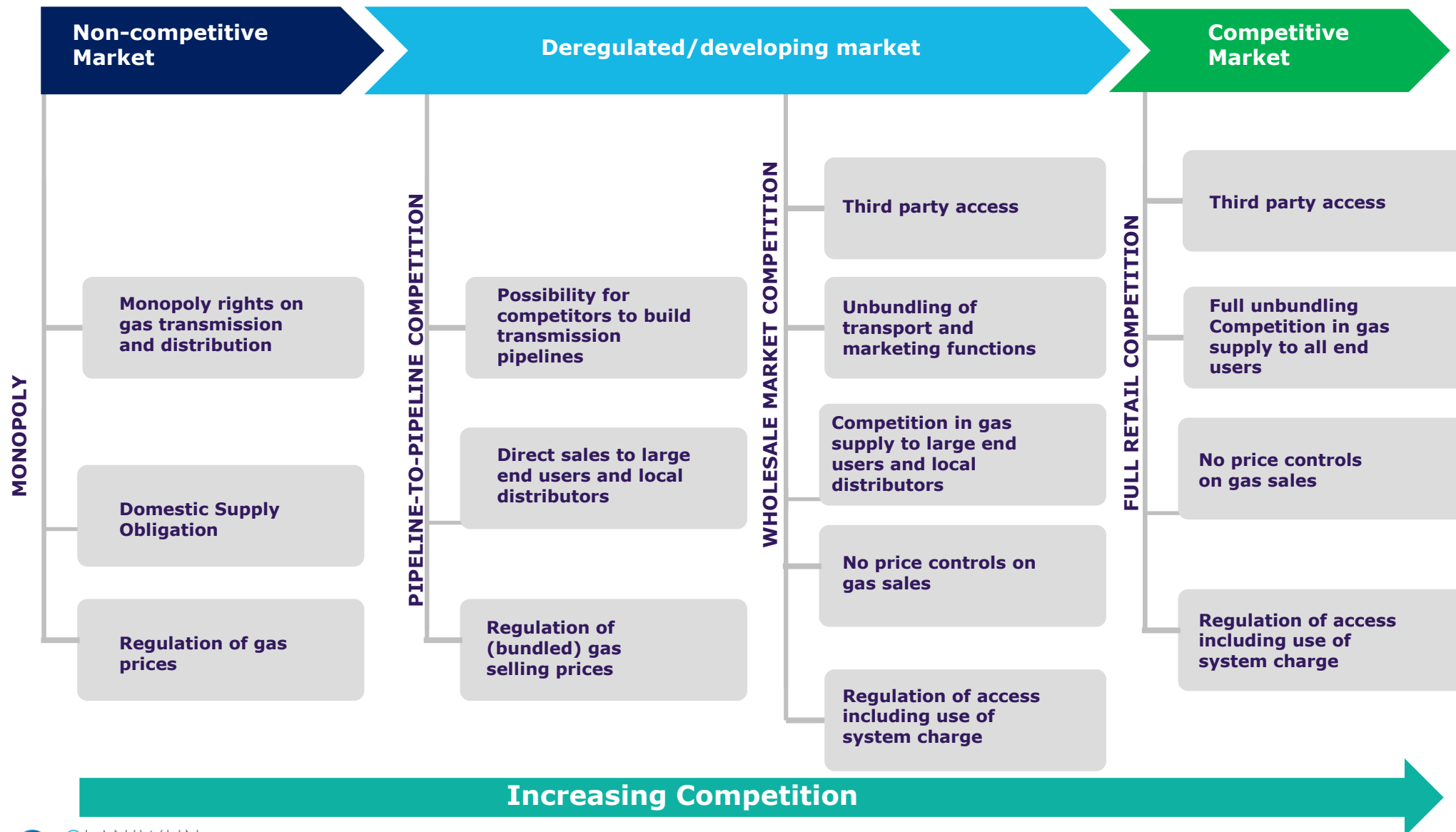


## NBP

- At the forefront of the European Gas market
- Full mature traded market
- Offers reliable price benchmark

# Establishing a Gas Hub

Transition to competitive market



# ESTABLISHING A GAS HUB – REQUIRED ACTIONS

## STRUCTURAL ACTIONS

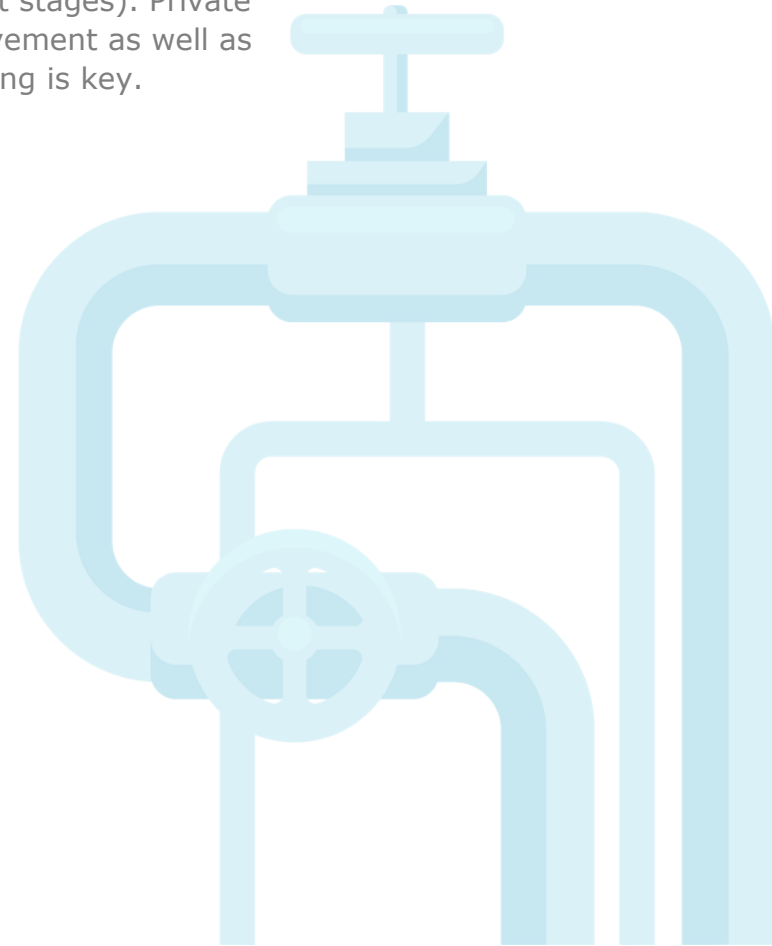
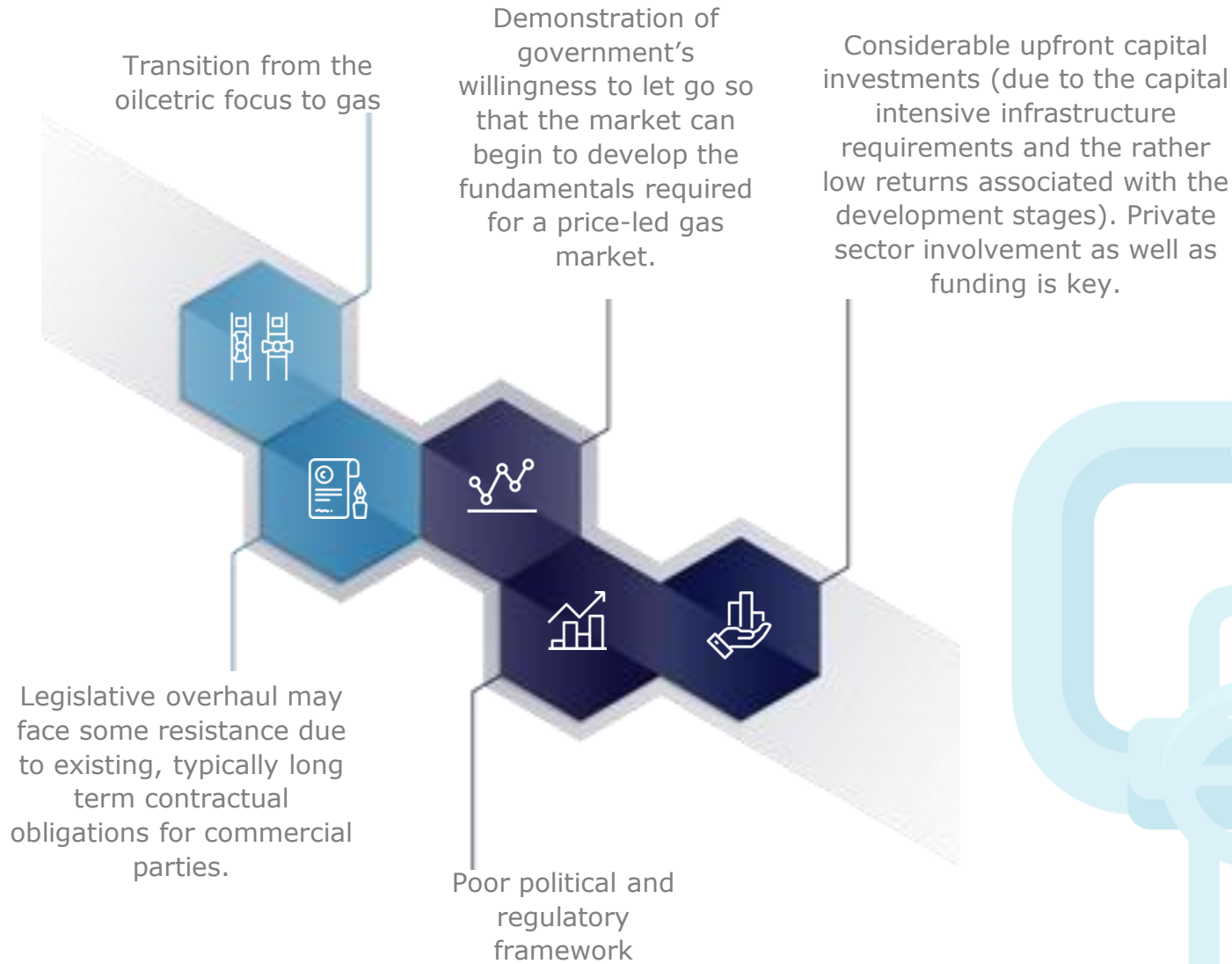
- Involvement of financial institutions
- Sufficient network capacity to prevent separate islands that behave according to their own supply/demand dynamics
- Non-discriminatory access to networks to increase the number of market participants
- Increased number of parties with competitive market shares



## INSTITUTIONAL OVERHAULS

- Hands off government approach relegating role and function to one of regulator
- Unbundling of transport and commercial activities
- Wholesale price deregulation (letting the market set the wholesale price level for natural gas)
- Application of competition policy

# DEVELOPING OUR GAS HUB – A FEW CHALLENGES





# **Gas Hubs – The Way Forward??**





**THANK  
YOU**