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### ***Gov't improves terms for oil, gas firms***

**EGYPT** has agreed to pay Germany-based DEA 40 per cent more for the natural gas it extracts in the Nile Delta Desouk region, the Oil Ministry said yesterday.

The agreement marks the latest move by Egyptian authorities to improve terms for foreign oil and gas firms in the hope that more competitive pricing will encourage investment in the energy-hungry country.

"Under the agreement, the price of new gas will be raised from \$2.50 for every million British thermal units (mmBtu) to \$3.50," the ministry said in a statement. It also said that DEA would increase average natural gas production in the Desouk development to 210 million cubic feet (mcf) per day by this summer, from current rates of 145 mcf.