CLAIMS

1. A system for transferring liquefied gas between a first facility and a second facility, said transfer system including:

- an articulated arm including a first proximal part suitable for being mounted so that it can rotate on the first facility about a first vertical axis, a second median part that is mounted pivoting on the first proximal part about a second axis and a third distal part that is mounted pivoting on the second median part about a third axis and:

- at least one transfer line, suitable for transferring liquefied gas between the first facility and the second facility, and including a flexible first proximal portion suitable for being connected to a liquefied gas storage tank of the first facility; a rigid second median portion that is fastened to the second median part of the articulated arm and a third distal portion that is suspended on the third distal part of the articulated arm and has an end suitable for being connected to a manifold of the second facility, the second median portion being provided with a valve, and the third distal portion being provided with an emergency release coupling.

2. The transfer system as claimed in claim 1, in which the second median portion extends along the second median part of the articulated arm and has two bent ends oriented downwards and connected respectively to the first proximal portion and the third distal portion.

3. The transfer system as claimed in claim 1, in which the two ends of the second median portion are respectively oriented along an axis which is secant to the second axis of articulation and the third axis of articulation.

4. The transfer system as claimed in claim 1, in which the second median portion is laterally offset relative to the second median part of the articulated arm.

5. The transfer system as claimed in claim 1, in which the second median portion is fastened to the second median part of the articulated arm by means of support members that are distributed along the second median part, the support members including cross members fastened to the second median part and a clamping collar fastened to said cross members and through which the second median portion passes.

6. The transfer system as claimed in claim 1, in which the first proximal portion rests on a support covered with a non-stick coating.

7. The transfer system as claimed in claim 1, in which the first proximal part of the articulated arm includes a protective cylindrical skirt including a non-stick coating.

8. The transfer system as claimed in claim 1, in which the third distal portion is suspended on the third distal part of the articulated arm by means of a lifting device, the lifting device including a drum that is fastened to the third distal part of the articulated arm and is associated with a motor and a cable that is wound around said drum and fastened to the third distal portion.

9. The transfer system as claimed in claim 8, in which the cable is fastened to the third distal portion by means of a load distributing spreader.

10. The transfer system as claimed in claim 1, in which the emergency release coupling is hung on the load balancing spreader.

11. The transfer system as claimed in claim 1, in which the emergency release coupling is arranged at the junction between the third distal portion and the second median portion.

12. The transfer system as claimed in claim 1, including at least two transfer lines, the first proximal portions of each of the two transfer lines being respectively arranged laterally on either side of the first proximal part of the articulated arm and the second median portions of each of the two transfer lines being respectively arranged laterally on either side of the second median part of the articulated arm.

13. The transfer system as claimed in claim 1, in which the second median portion includes a double-walled hose having an intermediate space that is lined with an insulating material.

14. The transfer system as claimed in claim 1, in which the first proximal portion and the third distal portion each include a composite hose or a corrugated double-walled hose that includes an intermediate space lined with an insulating material.

15. The transfer system as claimed in claim 1, including a protective sleeve that is fastened to one end of the second median portion, which is connected to the first proximal

portion, the protective sleeve accommodating one end of the first proximal portion and having a flared inner surface so that it ensures a minimum radius of curvature for said end of the first proximal portion.

16. The transfer system as claimed in claim 1, including a protective sleeve that is fastened to one end of the second median portion, which is connected to the third distal portion, the protective sleeve accommodating one end of the first proximal portion and having a flared inner surface so that it ensures a minimum radius of curvature for said end of the third distal portion.

17. The transfer system as claimed in claim 1, including at least two transfer lines and a bypass device that connects the median portion of the two transfer lines upstream of a valve provided on each of the median portions.

18. A vessel provided with a transfer system as claimed in claim 1.

19. A vessel provided with a transfer system as claimed in claim 2.

20. A system for transferring liquefied gas between a first facility and a second facility, said transfer system including:

- an articulated arm including a first proximal part suitable for being mounted so that it can rotate on the first facility about a first vertical axis, a second median part that is mounted pivoting on the first proximal part about a second axis and a third distal part that is mounted pivoting on the second median part about a third axis; and

- at least two transfer lines suitable for transferring liquefied gas between the first facility and the second facility, and each transfer line including,

a flexible first proximal portion suitable for being connected to a liquefied gas storage tank of the first facility,

a rigid second median portion that is fastened to the second median part of the articulated arm, and

a third distal portion that is suspended on the third distal part of the articulated arm and has an end suitable for being connected to a manifold of the second facility,

- wherein the transfer system includes a bypass device that connects the median portions of the two transfer lines upstream of a valve provided on each of the median portions.

21. A system for transferring liquefied gas between a first facility and a second facility, said transfer system including:

- an articulated arm including a first proximal part suitable for being mounted so that it can rotate on the first facility about a first vertical axis, a second median part that is mounted pivoting on the first proximal part about a second axis and a third distal part that is mounted pivoting on the second median part about a third axis; and

- at least one transfer line suitable for transferring liquefied gas between the first facility and the second facility, and including,

a flexible first proximal portion suitable for being connected to a liquefied gas storage tank of the first facility,

a rigid second median portion that is fastened to the second median part of the articulated arm, and

a third distal portion that is suspended on the third distal part of the articulated arm and has an end suitable for being connected to a manifold of the second facility, the second median portion being provided with a valve,

wherein the transfer system includes a protective sleeve that is fastened to one end of the second median portion, the protective sleeve accommodating one end of the first proximal portion that is connected to the said end of the second median portion to which the protective sleeve is fastened and having a flared inner surface so that it ensures a minimum radius of curvature for said end of the first proximal portion.