

STATEMENT

Construction of the Nord Stream Pipeline Continues in Finnish Waters

Zug/Helsinki, 11 August 2010. Construction of the Nord Stream natural gas pipeline will continue in the Finnish Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), as the Castoro Sei pipelay vessel returned to lay the pipeline in the western part of the EEZ.

Saipem's anchored pipelay vessel Castoro Sei returned yesterday to Finnish waters from Russia, where she had participated in the shore pull of the first pipeline. She will resume laying the first pipeline on the seabed in the western part of the Finnish EEZ, proceeding eastward between kilometre points (KP) 451 and 350 (see map below). The Castoro Sei has already constructed 47 kilometres in the Finnish EEZ at a rate of 2.5 kilometres per day, and she will continue construction in early autumn for approximately 100 kilometres. The preparatory works have been finalised in the Finnish EEZ.

The majority of the Finnish section of the pipeline, approximately 230 kilometres between KP 123 and 350, will be laid in late autumn and winter 2010 by Allseas' dynamically-positioned (no anchoring) vessel Solitaire. The total length of the pipeline in the Finnish EEZ is 375 kilometres, located in open sea approximately 30 kilometres from the coastline, at a depth of approximately 80 metres.

Environmental factors monitored

The potential impacts of the construction activities are being monitored in accordance with the environmental monitoring programmes, which have been prepared in close cooperation with Finnish authorities and approved through legislation. Nord Stream's construction activities and the corresponding environmental monitoring are being conducted within the framework of the Finnish permit provisions.

Temporary restrictions to navigation

The pipe laying and related activities will require temporary navigation restrictions in the Gulf of Finland for safety reasons. All the safety operations within the Finnish EEZ have been planned in cooperation with the Finnish Transport Agency. During construction, a safety zone with a radius of three kilometres will be set up for the Castoro Sei. The safety zone will be closed to other traffic.

The progress of the pipe laying will be communicated in advance to seafarers through Notices to Mariners, advance NAVTEX (Navigational Telex) warnings and VHF radio transmissions.

Nord Stream's first pipeline is scheduled to be completed in 2011. The construction of the second pipeline will start in spring 2011, and it is scheduled to be operational in 2012. When completed, the Nord Stream Pipeline will transport 55 billion cubic metres of natural gas a year, which is enough gas to supply approximately 26 million European households.



Map: Construction of the Nord Stream Pipeline in the Finnish EEZ (KPs are referential)

More information on construction:

[http://www.nord-stream.com/fileadmin/Dokumente/1_PDF/3_Background_Infos/Pipe_Laying/Nord Stream_White_Paper_Pipe_Laying_eng.pdf](http://www.nord-stream.com/fileadmin/Dokumente/1_PDF/3_Background_Infos/Pipe_Laying/Nord_Stream_White_Paper_Pipe_Laying_eng.pdf)

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Notes to editors

Nord Stream is a natural gas pipeline that will link Russia and the European Union through the Baltic Sea. The European Union's annual natural gas imports in the year 2007 were approximately 312 billion cubic metres (bcm) and are projected to increase to 516 bcm by the year 2030. This means that by 2030, the EU's annual import needs will have increased by about 200 bcm (Source: IEA, World Energy Outlook, 2009). Nord Stream will meet about 25 percent of this additional gas import requirement by connecting the European gas pipeline network to some of the world's largest gas reserves. The project

will be an important contribution to long-term security of supply and a milestone of the energy partnership between the European Union and Russia.

Nord Stream AG plans to have the first of two parallel pipelines operational in 2011. Each line is approximately 1,220 kilometres long, providing a transport capacity of some 27.5 bcm per year. Full capacity of about 55 bcm per year will be reached when the second line goes on stream. This is enough gas to supply more than 26 million European households.

Nord Stream AG is an international joint venture established for the planning, construction and subsequent operation of the new offshore gas pipeline through the Baltic Sea. Russian OAO Gazprom holds a 51 percent stake in the joint venture. The German companies BASF SE/Wintershall Holding GmbH and E.ON Ruhrgas AG hold 15.5 percent each, and the Dutch gas infrastructure company N.V. Nederlandse Gasunie and the French energy company GDF SUEZ S.A. each hold a 9 percent stake.

Nord Stream is included in the Trans-European Energy Network Guidelines (TEN-E) of the European Union. In 2006, the project was designated a “project of European interest” by the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. Nord Stream is, therefore, recognized as a key project for meeting Europe’s energy infrastructure needs.

Construction of the Nord Stream Pipeline started in April 2010, after completion of environmental studies and planning and an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) along the whole pipeline route. Three pipelay barges will be working on the project: the Castoro Sei is carrying out the majority of the offshore construction. In German waters, the shore approach of both pipelines will be built in the second half of 2010 by the Castoro Dieci. In the Gulf of Finland, Allseas’ Solitaire, a dynamically positioned vessel, will be deployed. The first pipeline is planned to become operational in 2011, the second one in 2012.