

PRESS RELEASE

The Nord Stream Project Progresses on Schedule

- **More Than a Quarter of the First Pipeline is Laid**

Zug, September 9, 2010. Pipelay vessels working on the Nord Stream project laid 345 kilometres of the first of the two 1,224 kilometre long pipelines through the Baltic Sea. “These first 28 percent show that the project is well on track, and that we are now really seeing the result of our complex preparatory work,” said Nord Stream Project Director Henning Kothe.

With the Solitaire joining the pipelay fleet in September, three laybarges are simultaneously working on Line 1. The Castoro Dieci is continuing to work in shallow waters of the Bay of Greifswald, Germany, the Castoro Sei is operating in the western part of the Finnish Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), and the Solitaire is working in Russian waters. On September 6, the three vessels together were able to lay more than 7 kilometres of the pipeline, which is a record for the Nord Stream project, and also a new benchmark for an offshore pipelay project with a 48-inch diameter pipeline. The fact that three vessels are working on the same pipeline at the same time is also unique for the offshore industry. The three vessels will continue working together on sections of Line 1 until the Castoro Dieci has completed pipe laying in German waters at the end of September. While the three vessels are operating simultaneously, production of Line 1 is at its peak, welding an average total of 500 pipe joints each day. Each pipe is 12 metres long, weighing about 23 tonnes.

Each of the three pipelay vessels is also supported by several other ships including pipe carrier and survey vessels. The Solitaire is using the marshalling yard in Kotka, Finland for pipe deliveries, the Castoro Sei is using Hanko, Finland, and the Castoro Dieci is using Mukran, Germany. During the period of deploying all three pipelay vessels, more pipes will be used than at any other time during the project.

In addition to the 345 kilometres of Line 1, 27 kilometres of Line 2 have also been laid under the more challenging conditions near the landfall areas. To mitigate environmental impacts, Nord Stream combined the construction for both pipelines in the coastal areas in Germany and in Russia.



Nord Stream

The new gas supply route for Europe

For further information, please contact:

Ulrich Lissek, Communications Director

Mobile: +41 79 874 31 58

Jens Müller, Deputy Communications Director

Mobile: +41 79 295 96 08

Email: press@nord-stream.com

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, recognised 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 entire pipeline route. Three pipelay barges have been commissioned to work on the project: Saipem's Castoro Sei carries out the majority of the construction in the Baltic Sea. The Castoro Dieci operates in German waters, Allseas' Solitaire handles construction in the Gulf of Finland as a subcontractor of Saipem. The first pipeline is scheduled to be operational in 2011, the second one in 2012.

Grafenauweg 2
6304 Zug, Switzerland
Tel.: +41 41 766 91 91
Fax: +41 41 766 91 92
www.nord-stream.com

Moscow Branch
ul. Znamenka 7, bld 3
119019 Moscow, Russia
Tel. +7 495 229 65 85
Fax. +7 495 229 65 80