

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Construction of Line 2 of the Nord Stream Pipeline is Completed in Russia**

- **The pipelay vessel Solitaire has finished constructing the 116 kilometres of Line 2 in Russian waters**
- **Construction of landfall facilities in Portovaya Bay is completed**
- **Pressure tests of the dry part in Russia have been successfully finalised**
- **First pipeline will be put into operation in the fourth quarter 2011, the second to be launched a year later**

**Portovaya Bay, Leningrad Region, June 21, 2011.** The world's largest pipelay vessel Allseas' Solitaire today completed the construction of Line 2 of the Nord Stream Pipeline in Russian waters and has resumed pipe laying in Finnish waters. Over 230 kilometres of Line 2 have now been laid in the Baltic Sea, 124 kilometres of which are in Russian waters. Simultaneously, Saipem's Castoro Sei is laying pipes in the Gulf of Finland as well. Line 1 has been completed and will be put into operation in the fourth quarter 2011.

On the Russian shore in Portovaya Bay near Vyborg, construction of landfall facilities for both pipelines and pressure tests have been completed in June. Herewith, the main scope of work on Nord Stream's Russian section consisting of the 1.5 kilometre dry part and 124 kilometre offshore part has been finalised.

#### **Offshore part**

Solitaire re-entered Russian waters for construction of Line 2 on schedule on May 15. 7.5 kilometres away from the shoreline the vessel picked up the pipeline, the nearshore part of which was laid by Castoro Sei in summer 2010, and continued pipe laying along the route. Due to favourable weather conditions, the pipe-laying speed averaged more than 3 kilometres per day, with the Solitaire laying 116 kilometres of Line 2 in just over a month. Between September and October 2010 the vessel laid the corresponding part of Line 1.

## **Dry part**

Onshore facilities located 1.5 km from the shoreline include pig traps as well as isolation and emergency shutdown valves. Installation of equipment was completed in June. At the moment assembling of telemetry and automation systems is ongoing. In summer gas-in equipment required for the commissioning stage will be installed.

During the operational phase gas pressure at the start of the pipelines will be as high as 220 bar, which requires the use of steel pipes with a maximum wall thickness of 41 millimetres. To guarantee that the pipeline can withstand such operational pressure, the two pipelines of the dry part were pressure tested to confirm their integrity and safety. The pipelines were filled with water and pressurised beyond the planned maximum operating pressure by 25 percent for a minimum of 24 hours. The pressure tests have been successfully completed and both sections will now be dried and filled with nitrogen to prepare for gas-in.

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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 2008 were approximately 320 billion cubic metres (bcm) and are projected to increase to over 500 bcm by the year 2030. By then, the EU will need additional gas imports of 188 bcm per year (Source: IEA, 2011). Nord Stream will meet almost one third 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 is carrying out the majority of the construction in the Baltic Sea. The Castoro Dieci has completed its operations in German waters, where it constructed both pipelines in the German landfall section; 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.

**No intermediate compressor station:** Nord Stream was able to design its offshore pipeline to operate without an intermediate compressor station, but with three different design pressures and pipe wall thicknesses as the gas pressure drops over its long journey from Russia to landfall in Germany. The connection by hyperbaric tie-in of these three pipeline sections was carried out at the two offshore locations where the design pressure changes from 220 to 200 bar and from 200 to 177.5 bar respectively. The connection of the Gulf of Finland and Central sections took place off the coast of Finland at a sea depth of approximately 80 metres, and the connection of the Central and South Western sections off the Swedish island of Gotland at a depth of approximately 110 metres.