

PRESS RELEASE

Nord Stream Takes Key Steps Towards Completing its Integrated Twin-Pipeline System

- **Adapting control systems requires planned two week shutdown**
- **Pipe-laying of the second 1,224 kilometre pipeline nears completion**
- **Second line will be prepared for operation during the summer**

Zug, April 13, 2012. Nord Stream is entering an intensive period during which its engineers and partners will take key steps towards completing the integrated twin pipeline system capable of transporting up to 55 billion cubic metres (bcm) of Russian gas a year to Europe through the Baltic Sea, for at least 50 years: control systems will be adapted to integrate the twin pipelines into a single automated twin-pipeline gas transport system, at the same time as pipe-laying of the second pipeline is completed and pre-commissioning started.

The two-week process of adapting, testing and certifying the integrated control system for the twin pipelines requires the valves at both Russian and German landfall to be shut, gas from the Portovaya Compressor Station to be stopped and the flow of gas through the pipeline to be temporarily halted. All official notifications and technical preparations for this important work have been completed, and Nord Stream AG confirms that the valves will be closed on 15 April 2012. The adapting has been planned in close co-operation with Nord Stream's upstream and downstream partners.

After all the required tests have been completed and certifications have been received, it is planned that Nord Stream will re-open the valves towards the end of April. The first of Nord Stream's twin pipelines has transported to its downstream European partners all the gas nominated and supplied by Gazprom Export. To date this totals approximately 3.5 billion cubic metres (bcm) during the ramp-up phase since becoming operational in November.

In the meantime pipe-laying of the second of the twin 1,224 kilometre pipelines is about to be completed, and the three sections will be joined underwater off the Finnish coast in mid-May and off the Swedish coast in early June. Pre-commissioning and commissioning of the second pipeline will take place over the summer, and the second line is on schedule to become operational as part of the integrated twin-pipeline system towards the end of the year.



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 which links Russia and the European Union through the Baltic Sea. The European Union's annual natural gas imports in 2009 were approximately 312 billion cubic metres (bcm) and are projected to increase to over 523 bcm by 2030. By then, the EU will need additional gas imports of 211 bcm per year (Source: IEA, 2011). Nord Stream will meet more than a quarter 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.

The first of Nord Stream's two parallel pipelines became operational in November 2011. Each line is approximately 1,220 kilometres long, providing a transport capacity of some 27.5 bcm per year. More than 95 percent of Line 2 has also already been laid. Full capacity of about 55 bcm per year will be reached when the second line goes on stream in late 2012. 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 handled construction in the Gulf of Finland as a subcontractor of Saipem. The first pipeline became operational in November 2011, the second one is scheduled to become operational in 2012.

In 2010 and 2011, Nord Stream invested 20 million euros in its Environmental and Social Monitoring Programme (ESMP). More than 20 specialist companies are conducting the surveys defined in the ESMPs, to determine just how, and if, the Baltic Sea's flora and fauna have been impacted by the construction of the Nord Stream pipelines. Data from sixteen subjects, including water quality, bird, fish and mammal populations, as well as seabed recovery, are collected from approximately 1,000 survey locations along the route in the waters of Russia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Germany. These data are analysed in internationally recognised laboratories, and Nord Stream reports the results to the national environmental authorities in each country. Nord Stream plans to invest approximately 40 million euros into its ESMP to monitor any impact of the construction and operation of the pipelines through 2016.

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