

## STATEMENT

### Nord Stream Line 1 is Undergoing Load Tests

**Zug, 24 May 2012.** As part of the ongoing ramp-up phase and as preparation for the operation of Nord Stream as a twin-pipeline gas transportation system, Nord Stream AG is conducting load tests for Line 1. Over the past three days Line 1 has been operating at full capacity of app. 75 million cubic meters per day which corresponds to approximately 27.5 billion cubic meters per year. The tests will continue for another three weeks. During the tests, the gas transportation parameters will fluctuate in different modes. The industry-standard load tests serve to confirm the safety and reliability of the pipeline. The first of Nord Stream's twin pipelines continues to transport to its downstream European partners all the gas nominated and supplied by Gazprom Export.

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#### 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. All of Line 2 has now 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 offshore gas pipelines through the Baltic Sea. Russian OAO Gazprom holds a 51 per cent stake in the joint venture. The German companies BASF SE/Wintershall Holding GmbH and E.ON Ruhrgas AG hold 15.5 per cent each, and the Dutch gas infrastructure company N.V. Nederlandse Gasunie and the French energy company GDF SUEZ S.A. each hold a 9 per cent 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 first 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 vessels were commissioned to work on the project: Saipem’s *Castoro Sei* carried out the majority of the construction in the Baltic Sea. The *Castoro Dieci* 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.

**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 of the first pipeline 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. The three sections of Line 2 will be connected underwater at the same locations this summer.