

FACT SHEET

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Pipelay Vessel Castoro Sei

Most of the Nord Stream Pipeline is laid by the semi-submersible pipelay vessel Castoro Sei (C6): The offshore section from KP 1195 to 350, and the Russian shore approach.

The Castoro Sei is manned and equipped to lay pipe 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Normal pipe-laying operations comprise the welding together and subsequent launching of pipe joints in a continuous string.

Facts

- Built in accordance with the rules of the Italian Marine Ministry by Italcantieri at Arsenale Triestino of Trieste (Italy); completed in 1978
- Owned and operated by Saipem, one of the world's leading contractors in the oil and gas industry
- Currently classed A1 by the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS); the vessel also holds a Letter of Compliance issued by the Norwegian Maritime Directorate
- Flag state is The Bahamas and the Port of Registration is Nassau. Bahamian Official Number is 711162.
- Positioned by a 12 point mooring system. She also has four azimuthal thruster units which can be utilised to further enhance position keeping if required.
- Crew facilities include conference rooms, client offices, hospital, gymnasium, mess, coffee bar, cinema and recreation rooms with satellite TV.
- Previous projects (selection only): Europipe II (Norway to Germany, 1994), Greenstream (Libya to Italy, 2002), Dolphin (Persian Gulf, 2005), Gjøa Field Project (Norway, 2009)

Figures

- Length excluding stinger: 152 metres
- Length including stinger: 193 metres
- Breadth: 70.5 metres
- Operating draught (typically): 14 metres
- Towing draught: 9.50 metres
- Accommodation capacity: 330 people
- Potable water capacity: Approximately 1,000 cubic metres
- Fuel oil capacity: 3,123 cubic metres
- Inclination of fixed laying ramp: 9.2 degrees
- Azimuthal thrusters: 37 tonnes each
- Mooring system: 12 anchors, 25 tonnes each, 76 millimetre diameter anchor wires
- Layrate for Nord Stream pipelines: about 2.5 kilometres a day

Set-up of the vessel

- The Castoro Sei consists of a continuous upper hull supported by ten columns, five of them on each of the two lower pontoons.
- The pontoons house the mooring winches, main ballast and consumable tanks, propellers and circulating pumps. Cofferdams and watertight doors protect machinery spaces.
- A superstructure mounted at the bow on the centre line of the unit encloses the bridge, offices, computer room and radio room.



- The upper hull encloses accommodation, main engine room and main store rooms. A large proportion of the main deck is used for pipe storage.
- On deck there are 1,195 square metres of dedicated pipe storage space, lined with hardwood to prevent damage to the pipes.
- On deck, to each side of the central housing, there are two cranes for pipe handling. Each of them has a capacity of 134 tonnes and has a water ballast counterweight system.
- Centrally on deck are bevelling stations where the pipes are machined in preparation for welding.
- In the double-joint area located in a deckhouse above the central assembly line, single 12 metre long pipe joints are welded into 24 metre long double joints.
- Non destructive testing stations are also located on deck; each double joint is conveyed there for automatic ultrasonic weld testing.
- The transfer and line up station for the double joints is enclosed within the superstructure at the stern end of the firing line (the central assembly line).
- The helicopter platform is located on the roof of this superstructure.
- The firing line runs through the longitudinal centreline of the vessel. It comprises the fixed pipelay ramp and an internal and an external ramp ("stinger") both of which have adjustable inclination to facilitate pipe laying in varying water depths.
- Several working stations (e.g. for welding, testing) are located on the firing line.
- At the bow end of the firing line, in the field joint coating system, the bare metal sections of the welds receive corrosion and mechanical protection.

More information at www.nord-stream.com

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