

FACT SHEET

February 2012

Pipe Laying

- Construction of the 1,224 kilometre long Nord Stream Pipeline started in April 2010.
- Currently, one pipelay vessel, the Castoro Sei, operates in the Baltic Sea, constructing approximately 2.5 kilometres of pipeline per day. Two more pipelay vessels have already completed their assigned sections in October 2010 in the shallow section in German waters and in August 2011 in the Gulf of Finland.
- The first of the the two parallel lines was completed in June 2011 and started operations in November 2011. The second line will become operational in late 2012.
- The two lines will transport 55 billion cubic metres (bcm) of natural gas per year, enough to supply more than 26 million European households.

Surveys

- Prior to construction, the seabed was thoroughly surveyed to ensure safe pipe laying.
- Where necessary, touch down monitoring with an remotely operated vehicle (ROV) confirms that the pipeline is laid in exactly the right position.
- As-laid and as-built surveys will confirm the pipeline position.

Pipelay Vessels

- The Castoro Sei carries out the majority of the offshore construction. The vessel started construction in April 2010 and will work until 2012.
- Allseas' Solitaire, a dynamically positioned vessel, was deployed for the construction of almost 350 kilometres of pipeline in the Gulf of Finland. The Solitaire worked on the first line from September 2010 until February 2011. It started laying a short section of Line 2 in January 2011 and finished in August 2011.
- Between July and October 2010, the Castoro Dieci constructed the shore approach of both pipelines in the shallow waters of Germany (nearly 3 percent of the pipeline).
- Pipelay vessels are manned and equipped to lay pipe 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Pipe-Laying Sequence on the Castoro Sei

- On the pipelay vessel, both ends of each pipe are beveled and cleaned in preparation for welding. Two 12-metre pipe joints are automatically welded together into a "double joint" after which the weld undergoes ultrasonic testing to detect flaws and repair them if necessary.
- The double joint is transported to the "firing line" where it is welded to the end of the pipeline. Each weld area is again meticulously examined by automated ultrasonic testing (AUT) in order to detect and assess possible defects.
- Once each weld is confirmed as acceptable, a corrosion-resistant heat shrink sleeve is applied around the entire circumference. To provide further protection, hardening polyurethane foam is filled into a mould surrounding the weld area.
- While the pipelay vessel moves, the completed stretch of pipeline runs down the stinger into the suspended span and subsequently comes to rest on the seabed.
- Wherever necessary, the pipeline is placed into a pre-dredged trench to ensure stability and to protect it from environmental impacts such as ice and rough seas at the Russian landfall or against anchor impact in major shipping lanes. At the German

and Russian landfall, the pipelay vessel was anchored about one kilometre offshore and the pipeline string produced on board was pulled ashore with a high-powered winch.

- The separate stretches of pipeline laid by the three vessels are joined into three continuous sections through a process called Abandonment and Recovery (A&R). During A&R, a watertight sealed 'head' of a previously laid stretch of the pipeline is pulled back up from the seabed onto the stinger of a pipelay vessel and new segments are welded to the recovered part.

Safety & Environment

- An exclusion zone of up to three kilometres is maintained around any pipelay vessel.
- Stakeholders such as fishermen receive weekly notifications of all planned and ongoing works, maritime authorities are regularly updated and environmental monitoring reports are submitted to the relevant authorities in line with the legal and permit requirements.
- Nord Stream holds daily conference calls with the construction vessels to ensure consistent information flow and timely identification of potential issues.
- Installation will not take place during fish spawning seasons.

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