



STATEMENT

Nord Stream to Salvage Historic Shipwreck Artefacts Near German Island of Rügen

Zug, 18 August 2008. Nord Stream AG is planning to raise the remnants of a shipwreck off the coast of the German island Rügen. The recovery of the shipwreck artefacts, which are part of a historic barrier of shipwrecks in the Bay of Greifswald, is planned for 2009 and will clear a corridor roughly 60 metres wide for laying the Nord Stream gas pipeline. Nord Stream will work closely on the project with the Bureau for Culture and Care and Preservation of Ancient Monuments and Artefacts (LKD M-V), which is the relevant authority in the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. After the artefacts are salvaged, the LKD M-V will examine them before re-submerging them in a remote gravel lake for archaeological preservation and research along with artefacts from three other ships already located there. Nord Stream will finance all salvage and transport costs.

Following evaluation by the LKD M-V of existing side-scan data and before the actual salvage starts next year, divers will survey the artefacts this summer in their initial location. The artefacts favoured for recovery are shipwreck remnants that are in an area about 12.8 metres long by 3.5 metres wide. The operation will involve use of a base ship with six diver-researchers and one scientific specialist. The team will lift the artefacts in a one-time operation using a special steel hoisting frame.

Historical background of the shipwreck barrier

In 1715, during the Great Northern War, the Swedish navy ballasted some 20 ships, each about 15 metres long, positioning them to sink on the seaward sill of the Bay of Greifswald. Resting on the shallow sea bottom and only two metres below the surface, the ships form a 980-metre defensive barrier which prevented enemy fleets from entering the bay. The remains of the wrecks were re-discovered in 1996 and were later surveyed and charted using a special scanner.

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Nord Stream

The new gas supply route for Europe

Notes to editors:

Nord Stream is a natural gas pipeline that will link Russia and the European Union via the Baltic Sea. Gas imports by the European Union, 314 billion cubic metres (bcm) in 2005, are projected to grow by almost 200 bcm to 509 bcm per year in 2025 (Source: European Commission/DG-TREN, 2007). Connecting the world's biggest gas reserves with the European gas pipeline network, Nord Stream will meet about 25 per cent of that additional requirement. 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 annum. Full capacity of about 55 bcm a year will be reached in the second phase, when operation of the second line starts.

Nord Stream AG is an international joint venture established for the planning, construction and subsequent operation of the new offshore gas pipeline across the Baltic Sea. Gazprom holds a 51 per cent stake in the joint venture. BASF/Wintershall and E.ON Ruhrgas hold 20 per cent each, and N.V. Nederlandse Gasunie has a 9 per cent stake.