Nord Stream
The new gas supply route for Europe

PRESS RELEASE

Divers examine historic shipwreck artefacts in the Bay of Greifswald

Zug, 13 October, 2008. A team of specialist research divers has today begun the detailed sea-bottom examination of the remnants of a ship sunk in 1715. The seabed examination of the shipwreck, being undertaken on behalf of Nord Stream AG, is under the supervision of the State Bureau for Culture and Care and Preservation of Ancient Monuments and Artefacts (LKD M-V) of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. The ship, which is part of a deliberately created barrier of shipwrecks, is due to be raised from the seabed in 2009 to create a corridor for the safe laying of the Nord Stream Pipeline. The team of up to eight divers, working under the instructions of the LKD M-V, is first examining and documenting the current condition of the shipwreck artefacts on the seabed. These marine archaeological activities, above all taking the detailed measurements of the shipwreck parts, are designed to establish the technical conditions and challenges involved in next year's salvage operations. The current seabed examination is expected to take five weeks.

Picture available for publication:

Caption: Shortly after sunrise, final arrangements are made for the survey of historic shipwreck artefacts in the Bay of Greifswald the same day. A team of exploratory divers from the State Bureau for Culture and Preservation of Ancient Monuments and Artefacts (LKD M-V) of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania will carry it out. Divers load a pump on board the HAVGUS utility vessel at the port of Lauterbach on the German island of Rügen. (Source: Nord Stream/Jens Koehler)

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Further information on the survey and its main findings will follow within the next few weeks.

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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.