Nord Stream
The new gas supply route for Europe

PRESS RELEASE

Nord Stream Publishes Project Information Document on Extension

- **First step enables planning for future Environmental Impact Assessments**

Zug, April 8, 2013. Nord Stream AG today published the Project Information Document (PID) on the Extension project. The PID describes the project's technical background and the suggested approach to assess its potential environmental and social impacts. It highlights the envisaged project in the context of the Espoo Convention in which the nations around the Baltic Sea consult each other with regards to transboundary environmental or social concerns.

As a preparation for the further Extension project development, Nord Stream is taking initiating steps by discussing the programme proposals for the national environmental impact studies in Russia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Germany. The proposed Extension project comprises of one or two additional pipelines through the Baltic Sea crossing the waters of the five countries.

According to the UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) for the Extension project, countries are obliged to notify and consult each other and the potentially affected countries (Russian Federation, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia) on the planned project activities with potential transboundary environmental impacts. This joint notification marks the start of a transboundary consultation process.

The PID enables possibly affected parties to determine their role in the future environmental and social impact assessment and associated permitting processes in accordance with their country-specific laws and regulations.

The EIA processes will be based on the positive experience of Nord Stream. After completion of construction of Lines 1 and 2, the results of the environmental and social monitoring show that any construction-related impacts were minor, locally limited and predominantly short-term.

In line with the company's commitment to transparency and open dialogue, Nord Stream has set up a dedicated page on its website where the PID can be reviewed in nine languages of the Baltic Sea countries as

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well as in English. Comments on the PID will be acknowledged by the relevant authorities.

More information on the Extension project is available here.

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Notes to editors:

Nord Stream AG is an international joint venture established for the planning, construction and subsequent operation of the twin 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's head office and operations centre are both in Zug, Switzerland.

Nord Stream's natural gas pipelines through the Baltic Sea have the capacity to transport 55 billion cubic metres (bcm) of Russian gas a year to the EU, for at least 50 years. Both lines run in parallel for 1,224 kilometres from Portovaya Bay, near Vyborg on the Russian Baltic Sea coast to Lubmin, Germany. Each pipeline comprises some 100,000 24-tonne concrete-weight-coated steel pipes laid on the seabed along the precise route approved by the authorities of the five countries through whose waters the pipelines now pass. The first Nord Stream Pipeline started operation in November 2011, and the second line came on-stream in October 2012, on schedule and on budget.

Natural gas plays an increasingly important role in Europe's energy mix at a time when gas production in the EU is declining. Gas import requirements are projected to increase from 302 bcm in 2011 to 524 bcm by 2035. By then the EU will need additional gas imports of 222 bcm per year. (Source: IEA 2012.) With global demand rising, the EU needs secure gas resources in the long term in order to ensure global industrial competitiveness and meet domestic demand. The Nord Stream Pipeline system, together with its extension project – being a short and direct link between the European gas transmission system and the world's largest gas reserves – is an answer to these challenges.

The Nord Stream Extension Project comprises the planning, construction and operation of up to two additional natural gas offshore pipelines on the sea floor of the Baltic Sea. The Project is planned to pass through the Exclusive Economic Zones and/or Territorial Waters of Russia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Germany. The pipelines will each have a transport capacity in the order of 27.5 billion cubic metres (bcm) of natural gas per year and their design is planned with similar properties to that of the existing two Nord Stream pipelines. Nord Stream AG has the mandate to carry out preparatory and planning activities for potential extension project development. Further project development might be executed within the framework of a new company to be incorporated within the coming months.

Nord Stream is committed to safety and the environment: the consortium invested 100 million euros in the most comprehensive research of the Baltic Sea ever in planning the first two pipelines. The consortium consulted widely to ensure that the design, routing,

construction and operation of the pipelines will be safe and environmentally sound. During the construction phase and during the first years of operation until 2016, Nord Stream is investing a further 40 million euros in comprehensive environmental monitoring along its route through the Baltic Sea to verify that the environment is not adversely affected. After completion of construction of Nord Stream line 1 and line 2 the results of the Environmental and Social Monitoring demonstrate that any environmental impacts in the Baltic Sea were minor, locally limited, and predominantly short-term and were within the assessed limits.

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