

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **“Tube Mail” from Russia Arrived in Lubmin**

- **Record-setting “PIG” run for the integrity inspection of the Nord Stream Pipelines**

**Lubmin/Zug, September 26, 2013.** Nord Stream has concluded a comprehensive inspection of the internal condition of both pipelines, as part of its long-term safety and pipeline integrity management strategy. A measurement tool about seven metres long and weighing more than seven tonnes was sent through the pipeline from Russia to Lubmin, Germany, travelling at 1.5 metres a second propelled by the gas pressure. The pipeline inspection gauge (PIG) collected high-resolution data on material integrity along the 1,224 kilometre route. The journey from Russia to Germany took ten days.

This was the first time that a pipeline of this length and a wall-thickness of up to 41 millimetres has been analysed in this way. For the inspection run, a device with one of the strongest magnetic fields was developed by ROSEN Group in Lingen, Germany. The “intelligent PIG” has an array of electronic sensors, which screen the material integrity and the geometry of the pipeline. The PIG has collected over one Terabyte of data on its journey from Russia, and the data was recorded at a rate equivalent to 12 Megabits per second, 30 times faster than cellular data networks.

The high-resolution measurement technology can detect smallest changes in the condition of the pipelines. The exact geographical position of the pipelines is also being documented. The first evaluation of the results confirms that the pipelines have moved only minimally while being operated under full pressure and that there has been no corrosion or deformation.

In 2012 and early summer of 2013, Nord Stream had already examined the external condition of both pipelines. This external visual and instrumental inspection of the pipeline was conducted via remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) followed by support vessels. The results of the internal and external inspections form the baseline data for regular inspection cycles in the coming years. This will allow any potential changes in the position of the pipes, minimal corrosion and even the smallest mechanical defects to be detected at an early stage.

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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.

**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.