

PRESS RELEASE

Nord Stream Shares its Environmental Database with the Scientific Community for a Better Future of the Baltic Sea

- **Nord Stream has launched its online Data and Information Fund**
- **Environmental monitoring and survey data along the pipeline corridor through the Baltic Sea is available for scientific purposes**

Zug, March 24, 2014. Nord Stream took a further concrete step in line with its firm commitment to preserve the Baltic Sea with the launch of its [Data and Information Fund](#) (DIF) online portal. This portal enables Nord Stream to share its extensive knowledge and survey data with the scientific community for the further research and preservation of the Baltic Sea.

The DIF covers environmental and seabed survey data (e.g. bathymetry and sediment-type data) along the route of the Nord Stream pipelines within a defined corridor of around 2 kilometres. Nord Stream AG, as the operator of one of the major infrastructure projects in the Baltic Sea (two 1,224 km-long natural gas pipelines through the Baltic Sea) was actively involved in conducting numerous surveys in the Baltic from 2005 to 2012. During this period, the company gathered a wealth of unique data about the Baltic Sea for the purposes of the pipeline design and routing, the project's permit applications and environmental impact assessments as well as the environmental and social monitoring during the construction.

Nord Stream invested over 100 million euros in conducting the most extensive environmental studies of the Baltic Sea. This valuable information gathered over several years can now be utilized to address some of the many challenges of the Baltic Sea environment. In particular, the data can be helpful for environmental projects within HELCOM's Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP). The unique data gathered by Nord Stream covers the entire range of HELCOM's Baltic Sea Action Plan priorities, including eutrophication, hazardous substances, environmentally-friendly maritime activities and biodiversity.

“The Baltic Sea is the home of our project. With the launch of the Data and Information Fund, we want to make our contribution to the wealth of knowledge about the Baltic. We invite relevant universities, scientists and experts to visit the DIF to gain valuable data for the sake of further research and preservation of the Baltic. We hope that Nord Stream's data heritage will help to form a better picture of the challenges which the Baltic Sea is facing. We also want to encourage universities and researchers

around the Baltic Sea to create new solutions to improve the state of our sea.” said Dirk von Ameln, Permitting Director Nord Stream AG.

The use of the DIF data is restricted to academic, research, educational, and governmental purposes. Data which is subject to legal restrictions by laws of the Baltic Sea countries is excluded from the Fund’s database. Nord Stream will maintain the database until 2021, in line with many of the HELCOM projects.

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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 307 bcm in 2011 to 450 bcm by 2035. By then the EU will need additional gas imports of 143 bcm per year. (Source: IEA 2013.) Nord Stream will meet almost a third of this additional gas import requirement by connecting the European gas pipeline network to some of the world’s largest gas reserves.

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 pipeline. The consortium consulted widely to ensure that the design, routing, construction and operation of the pipeline will be safe and environmentally sound. Through 2016, Nord Stream is investing a further 40 million euros in comprehensive environmental monitoring along its route through the Baltic Sea to guarantee that the environment is not adversely affected.

The Helsinki Commission, or HELCOM, works to protect the marine environment of the Baltic Sea from all sources of pollution through intergovernmental co-operation between Denmark, Estonia, the European Community, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden.