

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Nord Stream Race 2014: 750 Nautical Miles From St Petersburg via Helsinki to Warnemunde**

- **Nord Stream AG proudly lends its name to the third edition of the international sailing competition in the Baltic Sea**
- **“Youth Sailing Initiative” launched to promote international cooperation**

**Zug / Warnemunde, May 28, 2014.** In its third year, the Nord Stream Race challenges competitors to cross the Baltic Sea from Saint Petersburg via a stopover in Helsinki to Rostock-Warnemunde. All in all a distance of about 750 nautical miles (approximately 1.400 kilometres) will have to be overcome by the international sailing teams.

Nord Stream AG proudly lends its name to the third edition of the challenging international sailing competition across the Baltic Sea, which starts in Saint Petersburg, Russia on May 30, stops in Helsinki for inshore-races between May 31 and June 2 and ends between June 5 and 6 in Rostock, depending on wind conditions.

Over the past years, the regatta gets increasing recognition in the sailing community, with more Swan-60-yachts signing up again this year. In odd years, the Nord Stream Race will be either a series of match-races followed by a non-stop race across the Baltic Sea – such as the 2013 edition of the race which lead from Germany to Russia. In even years the race will feature a stop-over in a Baltic Sea port for match racing and start in Russia, ending in a German port. The 2014 edition is split into two legs along the Nord Stream Pipeline which offers a relevant route and context for the race.

With the goal of developing young talents, Nord Stream has partnered with adidas Sailing to start the “Youth Sailing Initiative”, offering young sailors the opportunity to sail along aboard the Nord Stream sponsored “Spirit of Europe” operated by Tim Kröger. On each leg of the race two promising young sailors from either the yacht clubs organising the event will join the crew of the yacht. This challenge will provide them the opportunity to learn about team spirit and understanding between different nationalities.

Nord Stream Communications Director Ulrich Lissek said: "The Nord Stream Race not only follows the route of our pipelines, it also fits with our philosophy: fostering international collaboration, living up to pioneering

spirit and a strong commitment to excellence. We wish all participating teams the best of luck."

### **Partners of the Race**

This year's partners of the Nord Stream Race are Germany's largest yacht club the Norddeutscher Regatta Verein ([www.nrv.de](http://www.nrv.de)), Russia's Yacht Club of Saint Petersburg ([www.yacht-club-spb.ru](http://www.yacht-club-spb.ru)) who was the initiator of the first race, as well as the Finish Helsingfors Segelklubb ([www.hoski.fi](http://www.hoski.fi)).

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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 SE 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.