

PRESS RELEASE

Nord Stream Presents Results of Environmental Monitoring at Baltic Sea Day

- **Findings show that environmental impacts of pipeline construction are minor, local and short-term only**
- **Environmental monitoring and survey data available online for further scientific research in Data and Information Fund**

St. Petersburg, March 20, 2015. Today, Nord Stream AG presented the results and learnings of the environmental monitoring of the Nord Stream Pipeline at the Baltic Sea Days in St. Petersburg. The findings show that the construction of the two 1,224 km offshore pipelines through the Baltic Sea had only minor and short-term impacts on the environment.

From planning to completion of the project, Nord Stream invested over 100 million euros into environmental studies, planning and route design. More than 40 million euros of the overall investment were devoted exclusively to the environmental monitoring system. During construction, 22 renowned companies were contracted to analyse 16 scientific subjects at about 1,000 sampling locations along the route from 2010 to 2012. The geophysical surveys covered roughly 40,000 line kilometres. After construction, data associated with the reinstatement and recovery of the Baltic Sea were also recorded and analysed.

The results prove: Nord Stream's responsibility for the environment and its objectives – to minimize the pipeline length, to avoid environmentally sensitive areas, and to keep restrictions on marine users to a minimum – were successfully met. The findings of the analyses of the data show no unexpected environmental effects. All measured impacts were minor, locally confined and short-term only.

In order to continue this path and foster further scientific exploration, Nord Stream has made the data from its environmental monitoring and surveys available for researchers and others working on preserving and improving the Baltic Sea. One year ago, all collected data was published on Nord Stream's website in form of the Data and Information Fund – Nord Stream's contribution to the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan. The searchable data catalogue offers scientists access to comprehensive information on marine live and cultural heritage.

The use of the [Data and Information Fund](#) (DIF) online portal is available for academic, research, educational, and governmental purposes.

The latest Environmental and Socio-economic Monitoring Report (published in 2014) is available for download [here](#).

For more information, please contact:

Irina Vasilyeva, Head of Public Relations, mobile: +41 79 239 53 39

Email: press@nord-stream.com

Notes to editors:

Nord Stream AG is an international joint venture established for the planning, construction and 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 pass. Construction of the first Nord Stream Pipeline started in April 2010, and both lines were completed and 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. In 2012, 304 bcm of natural gas were imported into the EU. By connecting the European gas pipeline network to some of the world's largest gas reserves, since 2012 Nord Stream has been providing an efficient and reliable supply route capable of meeting more than eleven per cent of the EU's total demand for natural gas (478 bcm in 2012). Nord Stream will continue to make a significant contribution to Europe's energy security over the coming decades, as Europe's gas import requirements are projected to increase by a further 149 bcm by 2040. (Source: IEA 2014)

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.