

PRESS RELEASE

Nord Stream Project Showcased at 24th World Gas Conference

- **The Nord Stream Pipeline is currently the largest infrastructure project and of particular interest to the global gas industry**
- **A Nord Stream delegation shares the company's key experiences and findings at its booth at the conference**

Zug, 5 October 2009. The Nord Stream natural gas pipeline project will be showcased at the 24th World Gas Conference (WGC) in Buenos Aires from 5-9 October, 2009. This event, with the theme: "The Global Energy Challenge: Reviewing the Strategies for Natural Gas," unites experts from the global gas industry who are keen to share findings about the latest technologies in the field. Nord Stream is pleased to relate its experiences with these international experts.

Attendees of the conference will also discuss the need and of the share of natural gas in the global energy mix. The Nord Stream project, which is essential for Europe's energy mix, is the most advanced of the major new pipelines that Europe will require to meet its energy security and climate protection targets over the coming decades.

In parallel to the conference, there will be an exhibition of over 16,000 square-metres, where more than 200 exhibitors from major companies around the world, including Nord Stream, will present their products and services. At the Nord Stream booth, representatives of the company will guide visitors through key aspects of the project.

Nord Stream Presents Four Key Aspects of the Project

Nord Stream has dedicated many resources and much time to optimising its proposed route to **minimise its impact on the environment**. Surveys and research of the Baltic Sea to find the best possible route in terms of technical feasibility, while minimising impact on the physical, biological and socioeconomic environments began in 1997. Since then, more than 2,500 square kilometres have been surveyed. In total, more than 100 million euros have been invested in environmental impact studies and planning to ensure the design and routing of the pipeline will be safe and environmentally sound.

Another focus of the Nord Stream booth is the extensive knowledge the company has gained during the **permitting process**. Since 2006, Nord Stream has been in intensive dialogue with the authorities of the five countries through whose waters the pipeline will pass. The company has contributed to an international consultation process involving the nine

countries of the Baltic Sea, characterised by an intensive involvement of the public.

The company has developed a **detailed technical plan** for the 1,223 kilometre pipeline through the Baltic Sea. The pipeline will operate at a pressure of up to 220 bar, and transport 55 billion cubic metres per annum, without the use of compressor stations along the route. Additionally, Nord Stream will present its **logistics concept**, which is an economically- and environmentally-based strategy for minimising transport distances for 200,000 concrete-coated pipes, with an overall weight of 4.8 million tons.

Nord Stream's delegation to the WGC is led by Matthias Warnig, Managing Director, who said: "Nord Stream is not only an indispensable contribution to securing Europe's future energy supply; it is a valuable project within the global gas industry. The World Gas Conference presents a good opportunity for us to share with our peers the knowledge our team has gained in handling technical, environmental and engineering challenges."

The Nord Stream booth will be in the Blue Pavilion, slot 24, La Rural exhibition centre in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

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Notes for editors:

Nord Stream is a natural gas pipeline that will link Russia and the European Union via the Baltic Sea. The European Union's annual natural gas import needs in the year 2005 were approximately 314 billion cubic metres (bcm) and are projected to increase to 509 bcm by the year 2025. This means that by 2025, the EU's annual import needs will have increased by almost 200 bcm (Source: European Commission/DG-TREN, 2007). Nord Stream will meet about 25 per cent of this additional requirement by connecting the European gas pipeline network to the world's largest gas reserves. The project will be an important contribution to long-term security of supply and a milestone of the energy partnership between the European Union and Russia.

Nord Stream AG plans to have the first of two parallel pipelines operational in 2011. Each line is approximately 1,220 kilometres long, providing a transport capacity of some 27.5 bcm per year. Full capacity of about 55 bcm per year will be reached in the second phase, when the second line goes on stream.

Nord Stream AG is an international joint venture established for the planning, construction and subsequent operation of the new offshore gas pipeline across the Baltic Sea. OAO Gazprom holds a 51 per cent stake in the joint venture. BASF/Wintershall AG and E.ON Ruhrgas AG hold 20 per cent each, and N.V. Nederlandse Gasunie has a 9 percent stake.

The UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) sets out the obligations of parties to assess the environmental impact of certain activities at an early stage of planning. It also lays down the general obligation of states to notify and consult each other on all major projects under consideration that are likely to have a significant environmental impact across national borders. The Espoo Convention was opened for signature in Espoo (Finland) on 25 February 1991 and came into force on 10 September 1997. Nord Stream's process under the Espoo Convention has started in April 2006.

Nord Stream is included in the Trans-European Energy Network Guidelines (TEN-E) of the European Union. In 2006, the project was designated a "project of European interest" by the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. Nord Stream is, therefore, recognized as a key project for meeting Europe's energy infrastructure needs.