

PRESS RELEASE

Germany Approves Nord Stream Pipeline

- **Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH) grants Nord Stream AG the second and final permit for Exclusive Economic Zone**
- **Only the second Finnish permit outstanding**

Zug, 28 December 2009. Nord Stream AG today received the permit to construct the 31 kilometre section of the natural gas pipeline in Germany's Exclusive Economic Zone. The permit was granted by the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH) in Hamburg. This second and final German permit leaves only the second Finnish permit outstanding. The consortium had already received permits from Denmark, Sweden and Russia through whose waters the pipeline will pass, as well as the Finnish EEZ permit and the permit for the 50 kilometre section of the pipeline in German territorial waters and landfall in Lubmin near Greifswald.

"We are firmly on schedule to start construction of the pipeline in spring 2010 and to start transporting gas in 2011", said Nord Stream's Managing Director Matthias Warnig.

When completed in 2012, Nord Stream will be able to transport 55 billion cubic metres of gas per year from Russia to Germany, where it will be connected to the European energy grid. Gazprom has already signed long-term contracts to supply gas through Nord Stream to customers in several EU countries including Germany, Denmark, The Netherlands, Belgium, France and The United Kingdom.

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Notes to editors

Nord Stream is a natural gas pipeline that will link Russia and the European Union through the Baltic Sea. The European Union's annual natural gas imports in the year 2007 were approximately 312 billion cubic metres (bcm) and are projected to increase to 516 bcm by the year 2030. This means that by 2030, the EU's annual import needs will have increased by about 200 bcm (Source: IEA, World Energy Outlook, 2009). Nord Stream will meet about 25 percent of this additional gas import requirement by connecting the European gas pipeline network to some of 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
The new gas supply route for Europe

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. This is enough to supply more than 26 million European households.

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. Russian OAO Gazprom holds a 51 per cent stake in the joint venture. The German companies BASF/Wintershall Holding AG and E.ON Ruhrgas AG hold 20 per cent each, and the Dutch gas infrastructure company N.V. Nederlandse Gasunie has a 9 per cent stake.

As a cross-border project, Nord Stream is subject to international conventions and national legislation in each of the countries through which it passes. It has invested 100 million euros in environmental studies and planning and an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was completed along the whole pipeline route. This is a detailed study of environmental aspects in a trans-boundary context. The process is governed by international law (Espoo Convention) and by national legislation in the countries concerned.