

PRESS RELEASE

Construction of Nord Stream Pipeline in Germany Begins

Zug/Lubmin, 15 April 2010. Following the official start of construction of the Nord Stream Pipeline last Friday in Russia, construction activities have now also begun in Germany. The first construction phase in the 82 kilometre long German sector of the Nord Stream Pipeline is the landfall at the Lubminer Heide energy centre. The onshore installation of a cofferdam is being started in the approximately five hectare large area directly adjacent to the field where WINGAS' receiving terminal is to be built. Dr. Georg Nowack, Nord Stream Project Manager for Germany, said: "We are starting construction today here in Lubmin, as planned. This is the best precondition for reaching the lofty goals we have set for the pipeline project."

After the timely receipt at the end of last year of permits for the construction and operation of the Nord Stream Pipeline in German waters, all measures required to prepare for building have now been completed. The construction field, which is roughly 450 metres long and up to 150 metres wide, has been cleared, levelled, secured and fenced in. The first construction materials have already been delivered by ship. Special machines are beginning to erect the cofferdam on the landside, which begins approximately 150 metres inland from the coast. A parallel pair of Steel sheet pile walls will be driven into the ground, 9.5 metre apart. Onshore construction will continue until mid-May followed by the construction of another 550 metres of the cofferdam in the Bay of Greifswald. After the installation, the seabed between the pilings will be excavated. On completion of the trench excavation, two pipeline strings will be pulled ashore in succession and laid next to each other in the trenches that were created. To finish this phase, the trenches will be filled in and the pipelines buried.

Nord Stream AG, as the contracting party, will be present on-site with a management team to supervise construction measures. The Italian company Saipem, as the main contractor, has been commissioned to carry out the construction. Saipem, which itself specialises in pipe laying, has in turn hired the experienced construction companies Boskalis (Netherlands) and Rohde-Nielsen (Denmark) as subcontractors, tasked with trenching activities and building the trenches. The implementation of the construction measures are orientated on the high ecological standards that apply to all aspects of the Nord Stream project.

For further information, please contact:

Jens Müller, Deputy Communications Director
Mobile: +41 79 295 96 08

Steffen Ebert, Communications Manager Germany
Mobile: +49 1520 456 80 53

Email: press@nord-stream.com

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 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 when the second line goes on stream. This is enough gas 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 through the Baltic Sea. Russian OAO Gazprom holds a 51 percent stake in the joint venture. The German companies BASF SE/Wintershall Holding GmbH and E.ON Ruhrgas AG hold 20 percent each, and the Dutch gas infrastructure company N.V. Nederlandse Gasunie has a 9 percent stake.

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.

Construction of the Nord Stream Pipeline started in April 2010, after completion of environmental studies and planning and an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) along the whole pipeline route. Three pipelay barges will be working on the project: The Castoro Sei carries out the majority of the offshore construction. In German waters, the shore approach of both pipelines will be built in the second half of 2010 by the Castoro Dieci. In the Gulf of Finland, Allseas' Solitaire, a dynamically positioned vessel, will be deployed. The first pipeline is planned to become operational in 2011, the second one in 2012.