

PRESS RELEASE

GDF SUEZ Acquires 9 Percent Stake in Nord Stream AG

- **E.ON Ruhrgas AG and Wintershall Holding GmbH each sell 4.5 percent stake**
- **European dimension of this key Russian-European joint venture further underscored**
- **GDF SUEZ, a leading global energy provider**

Zug, 20 June 2010. Nord Stream AG is pleased to welcome GDF SUEZ S.A. as the consortium's fifth shareholder with a 9 percent holding following its acquisition of 4.5 percent each from founder members E.ON Ruhrgas AG and Wintershall Holding GmbH. The two German energy companies now each have a 15.5 percent holding. The consortium's other shareholders are Russia's OAO Gazprom with 51 percent and the Dutch gas infrastructure company N.V. Nederlandse Gasunie with 9 percent.

First agreements on these changes to Nord Stream's shareholding structure were signed yesterday at the annual International Economic Forum in St. Petersburg. The final closing of the deal will take place in the coming weeks. "Nord Stream is a vibrant example of the value of co-operation between Russian and European Union (EU) companies along the energy value chain, underlining the interdependency between Russia and Europe in energy security: Russia has the world's largest reserves of natural gas, and Europe is Russia's largest market. Nord Stream's European shareholders also partner with Gazprom in gas exploration, production or transmission," says Nord Stream Managing Director Matthias Warnig.

"It is a further sign of confidence in the financial, commercial, operational and contractual strength of the Nord Stream project that another of Europe's strongest energy groups has joined the consortium," Matthias Warnig added. "The participation of GDF SUEZ represents a further strengthening of the European dimension of this key Russian-European joint venture to meet Europe's growing demand for imported natural gas."

Now that France's GDF SUEZ has also become a shareholder in Nord Stream, the consortium includes shareholders from countries representing about 40 percent of the EU's total annual consumption of natural gas: Germany, Netherlands and France.

Nord Stream's shareholders are providing 30 percent of the 7.4 billion euros of the project's finance, with the remaining 70 percent to be provided by international banks and export credit agencies. The privately financed project consortium has already started construction of its 1,224 kilometre natural gas pipeline through the Baltic Sea and is scheduled to start transporting Russian gas to Europe in 2011.

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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 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 15.5 percent each, and the Dutch gas infrastructure company N.V. Nederlandse Gasunie and the French energy company GDF S.A. each hold 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 is carrying 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.