

STATEMENT

World's Largest Pipelay Vessel Solitaire Restarts Construction of the Finnish Section of the Nord Stream Pipeline

- **Solitaire will lay the majority of the first pipeline in the Gulf of Finland**
- **Construction is proceeding on schedule**

Zug/Helsinki, October 18, 2010. Construction of the Nord Stream Pipeline will resume in the Finnish section of the route as the pipelay vessel Solitaire is scheduled to enter the Eastern part of the Finnish Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) on Thursday October 21. Solitaire will construct the majority of the Finnish section of Nord Stream during autumn 2010 and early 2011.

Nord Stream resumes construction of the Finnish section of its natural gas pipeline, as the world's largest pipelay vessel Solitaire is scheduled to arrive on Thursday in the Finnish EEZ from Russian waters to continue laying pipe in a westerly direction. "Solitaire will construct the majority of the Finnish section of the Nord Stream Pipeline during October 2010 and January 2011, at an average rate of approximately 2.4 kilometres a day. Construction is proceeding on schedule", says Simon Bonnell, Nord Stream's Task Force Manager Finland.

On board the Solitaire – operated by the Swiss company Allseas – over 400 personnel work twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. The vessel is 300 metres long and 41 metres wide and is dynamically-positioned so that it can operate without anchors. Solitaire uses positioning technology based on satellite navigation, allowing precise position-keeping with 10 thrusters. The benefits of using this dynamically-positioned pipelay barge are that the only contact with the seabed is the pipeline touchdown so that the interaction with the mine lines (and required munitions clearance) and associated environmental impacts are minimised. As the safety zone around the pipelay spread is 2 kilometres rather than 3 kilometres for the anchored pipelay barge the impact to other marine traffic is decreased in this heavily congested area. National monitoring programmes have been set up to monitor possible environmental impacts.

Solitaire will construct 227 of the 375 kilometres of the Finnish section of the pipeline. This vessel started laying pipe in Russian waters in the beginning of September and has so far laid approximately 120 kilometres of the pipeline. Three pipe carrier vessels will trans-ship the pipe

segments to Solitaire from Kotka, where they were concrete weight coated in EUPEC's factory, and the Hanko marshalling yard.

Safety of marine traffic taken into account

Mariners will be informed in advance of all construction-related activities (Notice to Mariners), and there will be warnings in the affected areas through the NAVTEX (Navigational Telex) system and through VHF security broadcasts. All vessels used in the Nord Stream project will follow the COLREG regulations by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to prevent vessels from colliding. Safety zones will be set up around the vessels used in the construction works. The safety zones will be closed to other traffic during the operations. The safety zone around the Solitaire is 2 kilometres.

In addition, for pipe laying within the Kalbådagrund traffic separation scheme (TSS) and the Porkkala TSS, there will be a dedicated intervention tug stationed in the area. This tug will be available to assist any vessel that may lose its capability to maneuver and lead to a potential risk to the maritime environment. The intervention tug would be available to act under the instruction of MRSC Helsinki.

Construction proceeds as planned

Already nearly 500 kilometres of the first pipeline have been constructed in Swedish, German, Russian and Finnish waters. Saipem's Castoro Sei laid about 150 kilometres of pipe during summer and early autumn in the westernmost part of the Finnish EEZ. Both of the twin pipelines have already been constructed and pulled ashore at the Russian landfall in Portovaya Bay near Vyborg, and at the German landfall in Lubmin, near Greifswald.

Nord Stream's twin pipelines will be 1,224 kilometres long and consist of altogether 202,000 concrete weight coated pipes, each 12 metres long and weighing approximately 23 tonnes. When both lines are completed in 2012, they will transport 55 billion cubic metres (bcm) of natural gas per year – enough to meet the needs of more than 26 million European households.



Allseas pipelay vessel Solitaire



Nord Stream construction in the Finnish section of the route



Nord Stream
The new gas supply route for Europe

See more information on pipeline construction:

http://www.nord-stream.com/fileadmin/Dokumente/1_PDF/9_Pamphlets/Pamphlet_Construction_FIN.pdf

See more information on Nord Stream's environmental monitoring in Finland:

<http://www.nord-stream.com/fi/turvallisuus-ja-ympaeristoe/nord-streamin-ympaeristoetarkkailu-suomen-talousvyoehyккеellae.html>

For further information, please contact:

Simon Bonnell, Task Force Manager Finland, Nord Stream AG
Mobile: + 41 79 239 53 26

Minna Sundelin, Communications Project Manager Finland, Nord Stream AG
Mobile: + 358 40 582 2750, +41

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 15.5 percent each, and the Dutch gas infrastructure company N.V. Nederlandse Gasunie and the French energy company GDF SUEZ 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, recognised 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 entire pipeline route. Three pipelay barges have been commissioned to work on the project: Saipem's Castoro Sei is carrying out the majority of the construction in the Baltic Sea. The Castoro Dieci has completed its operations in German waters, where it

Grafenauweg 2
6304 Zug, Switzerland
Tel.: +41 41 766 91 91
Fax: +41 41 766 91 92
www.nord-stream.com

Moscow Branch
ul. Znamenka 7, bld 3
119019 Moscow, Russia
Tel. +7 495 229 65 85
Fax. +7 495 229 65 80

constructed both pipelines in the German landfall section; Allseas' Solitaire handles construction in the Gulf of Finland as a subcontractor of Saipem. The first pipeline is scheduled to be operational in 2011, the second one in 2012.