

PRESS RELEASE

Nord Stream AG Sponsors Schwerin SC Volleyball Club Juniors and women's first division team receive three year sponsorship

Zug, July 28, 2011. Nord Stream AG will sponsor the junior and women's first division volleyball teams of Schwerin SC starting with the 2011-2012 season. "In Schwerin SC we have found a partner that is internationally renowned for both their athletic performance and their work with young talents across borders. Together with our environmental and cultural sponsorship commitment, this new relationship is the perfect addition to our international funding activities in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania and the Baltic Sea region," said Ulrich Lissek, Nord Stream Communications Director. "We are looking forward to the collaboration and wish all teams good luck."

Nord Stream's sponsorship – initially planned for three years – supports the first division women's volleyball team and the development of talented young players.

The investment is aimed at strengthening Schwerin SC's work with up-and-coming athletes, facilitating the transition from junior talent all the way to the first division teams. Schwerin SC will also use the sponsorship to foster athletic exchange activities for youth teams in the Baltic Sea region.

In addition, the sponsorship deal supports the first division women's team, who won the German volleyball championship for the eighth time after a challenging season. "We are delighted to play our part in making sure that Schwerin SC continues to enjoy its success in national and international competitions, such as the Champions League," Lissek added.

For more information, please contact:

Ulrich Lissek, Communications Director
Mobile: +41 79 874 31 58

Steffen Ebert, Communications Project 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 2008 were approximately 320 billion cubic metres (bcm) and are projected to increase to over 500 bcm by the year 2030. By then, the EU will need additional gas imports of 188 bcm per year (Source: IEA, 2011). Nord Stream will meet almost one third 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 in 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 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.