

Press Release

Nord Stream Invitational Race 2016

- > **750 nautical miles – 70 sailors – 5 participating nations**
- > **The Nord Stream invitational race 2016 sets sail on Sunday 5 June, bringing together young and experienced sailors from five countries in a high profile race through the Baltic Sea.**

[Zug, Switzerland – 9 May 2016] Participants in the Nord Stream-sponsored regatta will sail from Saint Petersburg, Russia to Rostock-Warnemünde, Germany, via a stopover in Helsinki, Finland. The race follows the route of the Nord Stream natural gas pipeline and the planned Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which will run parallel to much of the existing line.

Saint Petersburg Yacht Club, assisted by the Norddeutscher Regatta Verein, organised the race in co-operation with Helsingfors Segelklubb and Rostocker Regatta Verein, with support from Nord Stream and Nord Stream 2.

Over 750 nautical miles, the invited teams will tackle the challenging weather conditions in the Baltic Sea on board Gazprom Swan 60 yachts. The race aims to nurture young sailing talent, and each team must include at least three crew members under the age of 25, testing their skills alongside experienced sailors from some outstanding international clubs.

First up there is Team Russia with skipper Sergey Borodinov, Olympic athlete and participant in the Whitbread Round the World Race. Team Finland will be skippered by Samuli Leisti, who brings a lot of experience to the team, including helming the 100ft Maxi superyacht LEOPARD 3 on the Transatlantic Race 2014. Germany will take part with its own team as well as Great Britain which will be led by Adrian Lower, Rear Commodore at Royal Ocean Racing Club and participant in many Fastnet and Round Britain and Ireland Races. Last but definitely not least is Team Europe with well-known skipper Tim Kröger, Admiral's Cup winner, Whitbread Round the World Race and America's Cup participant, who is also the defending Nord Stream Race champion from 2015. Ulrich Lissek, Head of Communications of Nord Stream 2, said: "Nord Stream 2 is proud to stand alongside Nord Stream and support the Nord Stream invitational, a race which brings together accomplished sailors from across the region, developing young talent and connecting countries across the Baltic Sea. We are pleased to continue sponsoring Team Europe in this race, which represents pioneering spirit, international collaboration, and commitment to excellence, as does our project."



Vladimir Lubomirov, commodore of Saint Petersburg Yacht Club, said: “This regatta was initiated four years ago to bring people from different countries together in a high profile sporting contest, focussing specifically on the Baltic region. Sailing is a great way of building bridges between nations.”

About Nord Stream 2

Nord Stream 2 is a planned pipeline through the Baltic Sea, which will transport natural gas over 1,200 km from the world's largest gas reserves in Russia via the most efficient route to consumers in Europe. Nord Stream 2 will largely follow the route and design of the successful Nord Stream pipeline. With Europe's domestic gas production projected to halve in the next 20 years, Nord Stream 2's twin pipeline system will help Europe to meet its future gas import needs, with the capacity to transport 55 billion cubic metres of gas per year, enough to supply 26 million European households. This secure supply of natural gas with its low CO₂ emissions will also contribute to Europe's objective to have a more climate-friendly energy mix with gas substituting for coal in power generation and providing back-up for intermittent renewable sources of energy such as wind and solar power.

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