



COMUNICADO DE PRENSA

MEDGAZ connects the pipeline to the Spanish gas network within the testing phase

- Today, 5th March the Almerian mayor and the government's subdelegate opened the entry valve to Enagas.
- On 1st March the gas pipeline started to be filled

Almería, 05/03/2011

Today, as a symbolic act within the testing phase, the Almeria mayor, Luis Rogelio Rodriguez-Comendador and the national government's subdelegate in Almería, Andrés Heras, opened the **MEDGAZ** pipeline valve connecting it to the Spanish gas network. This is a major milestone for the company marking the beginning of the importation of Algerian gas to Spain via the **MEDGAZ** gas pipeline. This new step took place in the reception terminal situated in the "Playa de Perdigo" on the Almería coast, in the presence of the Almerian Subdelegation Director of the Department of Industry and Energy, Luis Díaz de Quijano and the Managing Director of **MEDGAZ**, Juan Antonio Vera. The company, comprising the shareholders Sonatrach, Cepsa, Iberdrola, Endesa and Gaz de France Suez, is in the final stage of the testing programme with gas. On 1st March, after the verification of all units in the Compression Terminal in Beni Saf, the Algerian "offshore" valve was opened in order to start filling the marine pipeline and commence with gas at the Reception Terminal in Almería. The act on 1st March, was assisted by the Sonatrach Chief Executive Nouredine Cherouati and the **MEDGAZ** President Pedro Miró as well as the Algerian authorities and directors of the partner companies.

The test sequence of the **MEDGAZ** pipeline consists of commissioning and start up phases. During the commissioning phase all systems were verified, whereas for the start up phase the gas is being progressively introduced. Natural gas is currently flowing through the gas pipeline and today it has been connected to the Spanish gas network via the Enagas pipeline in order to continue increasing volumes to reach full system capacity in a stable and reliable way. **MEDGAZ** foresees that the pipeline will be technically prepared for operation within a few weeks. **MEDGAZ** is the company responsible for the construction and operation of the deep water gas pipeline from Algeria to Europe via Spain which supplies natural gas directly from Beni Saf on the Algerian coast to Almeria at an initial capacity of 8 bcm per year. Its operation offers improvements by ensuring the gas supply and providing a more direct and cost-



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effective route to southern Europe thereby positively contributing to the targets set in the Kyoto Protocol by providing a clean-burning fuel such as natural gas.

MEDGAZ: Technical Data Sheet

- ❖ **Capacity: 8 bcm/year**
- ❖ **Length: 210 Km (between Beni Saf and Almería).**
- ❖ **Diameter: 24 inches (610 mm).**
- ❖ **Maximum water depth: 2,160 m.**
- ❖ **Land based facilities: Compressor Station (Algeria) and Receiving Terminal (Almería).**
- ❖ **Investment: 900 million euros.**
- ❖ **Shareholders: SONATRACH (36%), CEPESA (20%), IBERDROLA (20%), ENDESA (12%) and GAZ DE FRANCE SUEZ (12%).**