

Balticconnector onshore pipeline filled with natural gas and trial run has started

The construction of the Balticconnector onshore pipeline has progressed to a phase in which the pipeline is filled with natural gas in order to conduct a trial run of the pipeline and the compressor station. Before reaching this phase, the pipeline has been welded, inspected, tested, marked in terrain and connected to Finland's existing natural gas transmission network.

"It's great that the construction work of the onshore pipeline has progressed on schedule and that we are able to start the trial run of the natural gas pipeline and the compressor station. We will proceed according to plans, aiming for the commissioning of the pipeline by the end of 2019," says **Herkko Plit**, President and CEO of Baltic Connector Oy.

Filling the onshore pipeline with gas affects the work of third parties and landowners in the immediate vicinity of the pipeline. Excavations closer than 5 metres from the pipeline are subject to permit. Filling the pipeline with gas has no effect on movement and field work on the pipeline, i.e. the area can be used normally. [The Natural Gas Decree](#) contains information about regulations that govern work performed by external parties in the vicinity of a natural gas pipeline.

The Balticconnector natural gas pipeline will be monitored remotely from Gasum Oy's central control station, which also monitors Finland's existing natural gas transmission network. The marking posts in the terrain contain the phone number of the central control station, which can be used to inquire further information and the exact pipeline locations.

The Balticconnector gas pipeline is due to be commissioned by the end of 2019. Natural gas transmission from Estonia to Finland or Finland to Estonia will start on 1 January 2020 when the natural gas market opens. Once completed, Balticconnector will connect the gas infrastructures of Finland and Estonia and enable the opening of Finland's gas market.

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