

**COMPANY NEWS**

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## **UPDATE 1-France's Macron says he worries Nord Stream 2 increases European gas reliance on Russia**



(Adds Macron quote)

PARIS, Aug 28 (Reuters) - French President Emmanuel Macron said on Friday that he had expressed reservations to German Chancellor Angela Merkel about the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline under the Baltic Sea because it increased Europe's reliance on Russian gas supplies.

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The pipeline, aimed at bypassing Ukraine, could be launched by the end of 2020 or early next year, Russian President Vladimir Putin has said.

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Within Europe, Germany stands to benefit from relatively affordable supply deals.

“I don’t think the approach that we ought to have with Russia be one of naivety nor do I think it should be nourished by an increase in our dependence on Russia. This has always fuelled my reservations about the Nord Stream 2 project. The chancellor knows it,” he told reporters. (Reporting by Michel Rose and Elizabeth Pineau Writing by John Irish Editing by Frances Kerry)

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