

In absence of U.S. sanctions, Russia deploys second vessel to build Nord Stream 2

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All -- in the absence of statutorily required U.S. sanctions under the bipartisan PEESA and PEESCA laws, Moscow has deployed a second pipe-laying vessel, the Akademik Chersky, and additional support vessels to engage in pipe-laying for Nord Stream 2.

Akademik Chersky

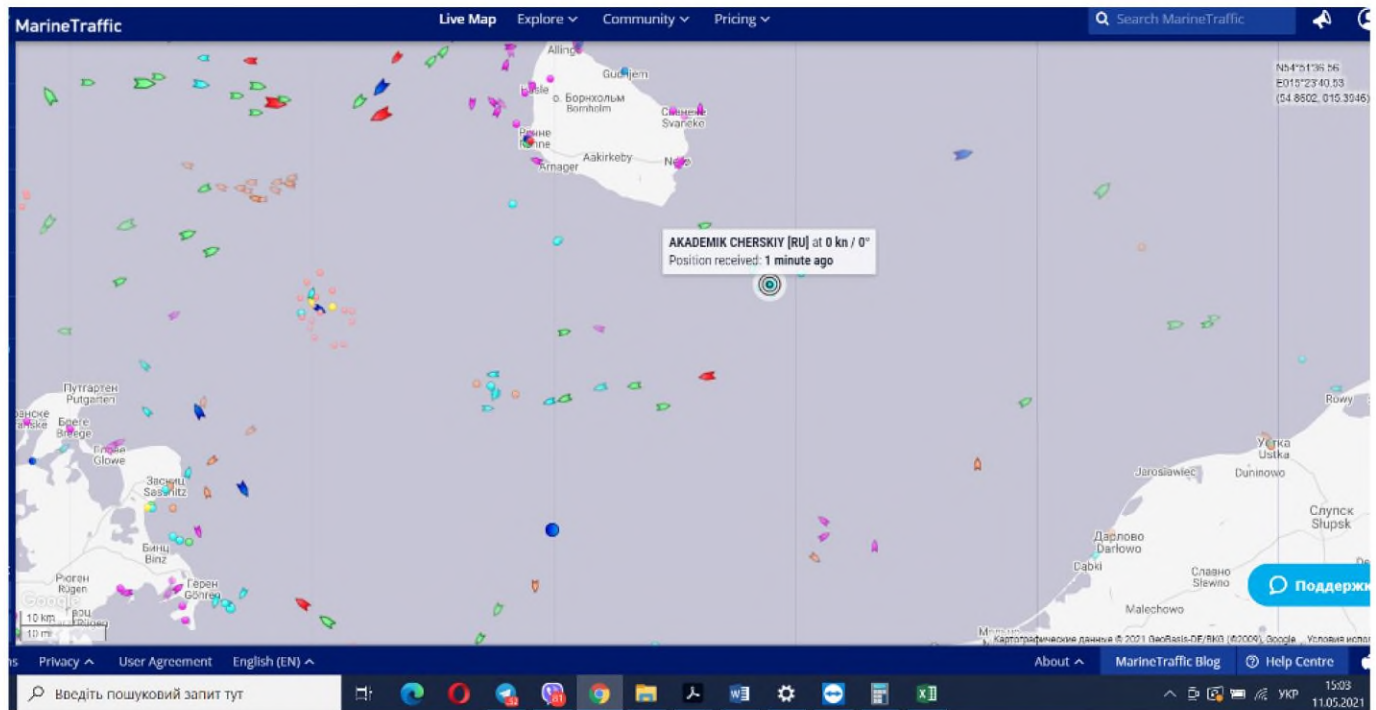
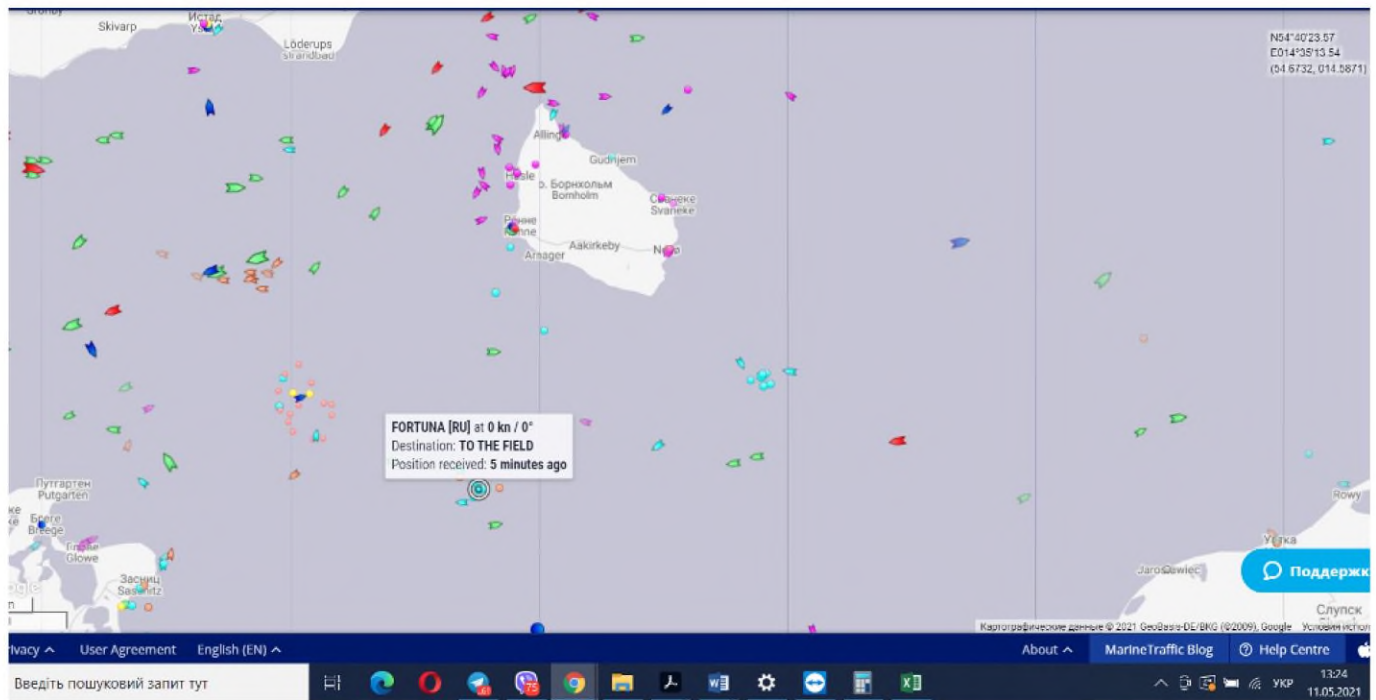
- The Akademik Chersky has been located near the unfinished section of the first string of Nord Stream 2 south of Denmark's Bornholm Island since March 31, where it was undergoing tests, but the vessel began pipe-laying on April 27.
- From April 27-May 3, the Akademik Chersky laid 2.3 km of pipeline; from May 4-7, it was located north of Bornholm Island 50 km from the Nord Stream 2 construction zone due to stormy weather; and on May 8 it returned to the construction zone.
- As of May 11, the supply vessels **Ostap Sheremeta**, **Murman**, **Finval**, **VENGERY**, as well as the Liberian-flagged support vessel **OSSOY**, which joined the group of support vessels on April 29 after calling at the port of Kaliningrad, are co-located with the Akademik Chersky.

Fortuna

- The second string of Nord Stream 2 is being built by the Russian-flagged Fortuna vessel, which, since the resumption of construction in Danish waters on February 6, has laid roughly 58 km of Nord Stream 2.
- As of May 11, the Fortuna is located less than 1 km from the section where the second string of the pipeline crosses the first string.
- Crossing two strings of gas pipelines is more complicated and requires stabilization of the gas pipelines using rock backfill.
- Since the Nord Stream 2 project's fleet does not include vessels that can conduct this sort of work and, because mandatory PEESCA sanctions include rock backfilling, it is difficult for Russia to find vessels that can provide high-quality services to stabilize gas pipelines.
- Apart from the Fortuna, two anchor handling tug vessels (**Umka**, **Katun**), one supply ship (**Venie**), one exploration vessel (**Baltiyskiy Issledovatel**), and the rescue vessels (**Spasatel Karev**, **Kapitan Beklemishev**) are located at the construction site.

Overall Status

- While there is no official information on the length of the unfinished section of the first string of Nord Stream 2, according to rough estimates, it is 85 km.
- The unfinished section of the second string of the pipeline is 25.9 km.



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