BULGARTRANSGAZ

# INFORMATION BROCHURE

## PROJECT OF COMMON INTEREST 6.8.3 GAS INTERCONNECTION BULGARIA-SERBIA

*[currently known as IBS] (6.10 in the 3rd PCI list)*

PROJECT PROMOTER: **BULGARTRANSGAZ EAD**

*1336 Sofia, 66 Pancho Vladigerov Blvd.*
*e-mail: info@bulgartransgaz.bg*
*https://www.bulgartransgaz.bg/*

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## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

**PCI 6.8.3 Gas Interconnection Bulgaria-Serbia (IBS)** is a project for construction of a new gas pipeline to connect the gas transmission networks of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Serbia. The gas pipeline's total length is approximately 170 km from the town of Novi Iskar, Republic of Bulgaria to the city of Niš, Republic of Serbia, 62 km of which on Bulgarian territory.

Project promoter on Bulgarian territory: **BULGARTRANSGAZ EAD**

Project promoter on Serbian territory: **J.P. SRBIJAGAS**

## Interconnection Bulgaria-Serbia (IBS) is:

- **Project of Common Interest of the EU:** The project for construction of the Interconnection Bulgaria - Serbia (IBS) on the Bulgarian territory is a Project of Common Interest (PCI) according to Regulation (EU) 347/2013, priority corridor: North-South Gas Interconnections in Central Eastern and South Eastern Europe (NSI East Gas)[1].
- **CESEC priority project** IBS is a priority project for the Central and South Eastern Europe Energy Connectivity (CESEC) High Level Group[2].
- **Site of national significance** By Decision No 111 of 15 February 2013 of the Council of Ministers, the site: Interconnection Bulgaria - Serbia on Bulgarian territory has been declared a national site within the meaning of § 1 of the Supplementary Provisions of the State Property Act and a site of national significance within the meaning of §5, item 62 of the Supplementary Provisions of the Spatial Development Act.

## MAIN PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The construction of the Interconnection Bulgaria - Serbia will:

- provide an opportunity for Bulgaria and the region to **diversify natural gas**

[1] Information on the project is available on the European Commission website: https://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/topics/infrastructure/projects-common-interest.

[2] Information on the project is available on CESEC initiative webpage: https://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/topics/infrastructure/high-level-groups/central-and-south-eastern-europe-energy-connectivity/Past-and-upcoming-CESEC-meetings

**supplies** by ensuring new natural gas supply sources and routes;

- **enhance the security of supply** for the Republic of Bulgaria and the region;
- **gradually increase natural gas consumption**;
- **promote investors' interest** in the border regions along the gas pipeline route;
- **generate economic benefits**, both for consumers and suppliers.

## TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

Characteristics of the gas transmission pipeline route:

- Start: Existing site of Pigging facility Novi Iskar of the national gas pipeline;
- Length of the gas transmission pipeline from the start point to the Bulgarian-Serbian border crossing point of about 62 km;
- Gas pipeline branch to AGRS Slivnitsa of about 0.2 km length;
- Gas pipeline branch to AGRS Dragoman of about 0.1 km length;
- End: Bulgarian-Serbian border.

According to the Detailed Spatial Plan - Parceling Plan (DSP-PP) the route, respectively the easement of the gas transmission pipeline (including gas pipeline branches to the towns of Slivnitsa and Dragoman and technological sites) passes through the lands of the following districts, municipalities and lands:

(1) Sofia City District:

1. Sofia Municipality - lands of the town of Novi Iskar, Sofia - Trebich district, Mirovyane village, Mramor village, Dobroslavtsi village and Zhiten village;

(2) Sofia District:

1. Kostinbrod Municipality - the lands of Golyanovtsi village, Dragovishtitsa village, the town of Kostinbrod and Petarch village.

2. Bozhurishte Municipality - the lands of Hrabarsko village;

3. Slivnitsa Municipality - lands of: the city of Slivnitsa, the villages of Galabovtsi, Aldomirovtsi, Bratushkovo and Barlozhitsa.

4. Dragoman Municipality - lands of: the town of Dragoman, the villages of Chukovezer, Dragoil, Chorul, Vladislavtsi, Novo Burdo and Kalotina.

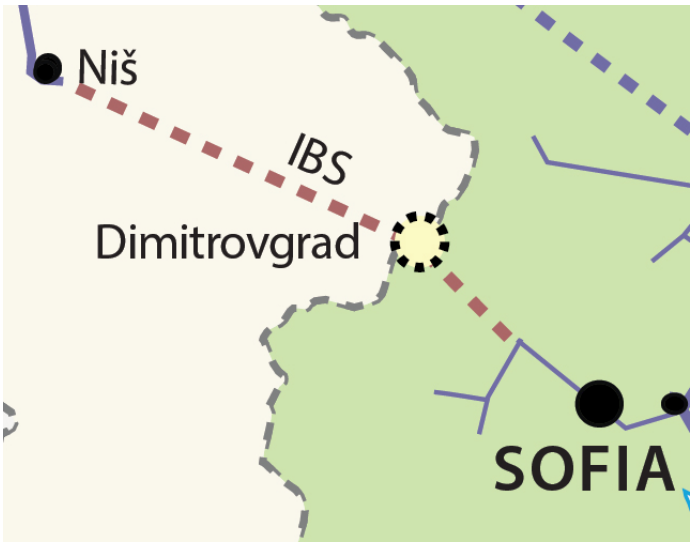
Technological sites and optic cable line are envisaged to be constructed in the easement of the gas pipeline Interconnection Bulgaria - Serbia on Bulgarian territory. Envisaged technological sites:

- Pigging facility Novi Iskar and Valve Assembly No 1;
- Valve Assembly No 2;
- Valve Assembly Slivnitsa;
- AGRS Slivnitsa;
- Valve Assembly No 3 and Valve Assembly Dragoman;
- AGRS Dragoman
- Pigging facilities and GMS Kalotina;
- Valve Assembly No 4.

Steel pipes of 711 mm diameter and 5 Mpa design pressure are envisaged for the gas pipeline construction.

Following its construction, the gas interconnection will have a throughput capacity of 1.8 bcm/y with reverse flow capability.

**Route map:**



## ALTERNATIVE ROUTES:

In 2012, the Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism (MEET, currently the Ministry of Energy is its successor) assigned the preparation of feasibility studies for gas Interconnection Bulgaria - Serbia on Bulgarian territory. The feasibility studies consider four route options of the new gas pipeline, and based on the optimal route option, a Detailed Spatial Plan - Parceling Plan (DSP-PP) is later developed. The final DSP-PP for the site was approved in 2015 after changes due to the requirement to ensure regulatory safety distances to other lines/conducts and facilities.

In 2020 Bulgartransgaz EAD assigns the implementation of basic activities for amendment, supplement, coordination and approval of the DSP-PP (final design) according to Art. 134, para 1, item 2 and Art. 134, para 2, item 3 of the Spatial Development Act in order to take into account the progress of implementation of infrastructure projects, crossing the design route of the gas pipeline and preservation of discovered archaeological sites of cultural value. The main approved route remains and the amendments and supplements are driven by the need the implementation of the gas interconnection to take account of the infrastructure projects' development nearby or crossing the design route.

## PRELIMINARY PROJECT TIMETABLE *

| Stage | Start | End |
|---|---|---|
| Carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment procedures | 06/2020 | 11/2020 |
| Technical Design | 11/2020 | 02/2021 |
| Final investment decision | - | 2021 |
| Public procurements for procurement and construction | 11/2020 | 02/2021 |
| Construction | 05/2021 | 04/2022 |
| Commissioning ** | - | 05/2022 |

** The forecast timetable is contingent upon receiving OPIC funding. ** The specified final date for commissioning is in line with the deadlines in the Joint Declaration.*

## EXPECTED PROJECT IMPACT

Regarding the requirements under the environmental legislation, two opinions were issued by the Competent Environmental Authority during project implementation by the Ministry of Energy:

1. Decision No 48 – ПР/2012 of 18.09.2012 assessing the need of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) with an opinion not to be carried out EIA for the project which is unlikely to have a significant negative impact on the natural habitats, populations and habitats of species subject to conservation in protected areas.

The decision is of 5-year validity as of the date its issuance and pursuant of Art. 93, para. 8 of the EPA shall lose legal effect if the implementation of the investment proposal has not commenced within the stipulated period from the date of its issuance. The expired validity requires a new update of EIA decision.

2. Decision No ЕО – 8/2015 of 30.07.2015 on assessing the need of an environmental assessment (EA) with an opinion EA not to be carried out for DSP-PP-Final Design, whose application is unlikely to have a significant negative impact on the environment and human health.

The decision states that in case of a change in the plan of the contracting authority or of some of the circumstances under which the decision was issued, the (new) contracting authority should notify the MoEW within 14 days of changes' occurrence.

Bulgartransgaz EAD will prepare and submit the necessary project documentation to the competent environmental authorities in order to update the issued permits, which will be renewed on the basis of the approved amendments and supplements to the DSP.

## POSSIBLE ASPECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

During the period of construction execution, all necessary measures will be taken to protect the environment, as well as to prevent environmental damage and negative impact on the environment, human health and cultural values due to the generation of harmful emissions on the individual environmental components as a result of implementation of the activities, including:

### *AMBIENT AIR:*

During the preparatory stage of construction, excavation works will be carried out.

The area where the above activities will be carried out will be a diffuse source mainly of dust and, to a very small extent, of emissions of harmful substances in the exhaust gases from internal combustion engines (ICE) of the diesel fuel machinery used - carbon and nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, fine particulates and negligible amounts of cadmium and persistent organic pollutants.

The intensity of dusting will depend to a large extent on weather conditions during construction works and the season during which the works will be carried out, climate and meteorological factors (wind, humidity, temperature, and atmospheric stability), the properties of soil particles and many other conditions. A dust reduction measure can be implemented by using the so-called irrigation sprinkler system to maintain sufficient moisture during the dry summer and autumn months in order to reduce the levels of dust emissions (controlled emissions). In order to prevent the risk of pollution, it is necessary to observe a precise schedule of construction works consistent with the meteorological conditions, i.e. to allow the natural self-cleaning ability of the atmosphere. For example, in case of windlessness and much polluted air, construction works should be suspended for a certain period so that pollution can dissipate.

The use of the irrigation sprinkler system to maintain sufficient moisture during dry summer and autumn months ensures emission control by reducing dust levels by 80%.

### *SURFACE AND GROUND WATER:*

The expected amounts of waste water are determined when choosing an option during the design stage. In order to avoid contamination of surface water and groundwater in the area of the site, it is necessary to take certain measures and observe the technological discipline when carrying out construction activities.

In order to minimize these impacts, proper storage and subsequent treatment of waste generated on site is recommended, as well as the use of construction and transport machinery and equipment in good technical condition, in order to prevent water pollution from petroleum products.

### *LANDSCAPE:*

The mitigation measures to be undertaken to prevent damage to the landscape in the area shall be limited primarily to timely clearing of the construction site immediately after completion of construction works in the area of the site, as well as compliance with the solutions laid down in the technical design.

### *SOILS:*

Protection of soils in the area during activities implementation is directly related to observance of the technological discipline, including proper storage of the raw materials

used for construction and operation. They should be in closed containers, on an insulated surface, without direct access to soils and/or water; availability of suitable absorbent close to containers, in case it is necessary to be used during spillage, proper storage of waste generated during construction and operation, etc.

*FLORA and FAUNA and PROTECTION AREAS of Natura 2000 Ecological Network:*

The choice of route options shall respect the principles of avoiding encroachment on the boundaries of protected areas of Natura 2000 National Ecological Network in order to avoid negative impact on the flora, fauna and Natura 2000 sites during construction and operation. Where this is not possible, mitigation measures shall be applied to minimize and/or limit the expected impacts, part of which is to preserve the natural state of habitats and species, to restore, where necessary, the area and natural state of priority natural habitats and species, as well as their populations.

*CROSS-BORDER NATURE OF IMPACTS*

According to the environmental documents issued in 2012 and 2015, the implementation of PCI 6.8.3 Interconnection Bulgaria-Serbia is not expected to have a cross-border impact on environment.

## PUBLICITY OF THE PROJECT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public consultations will be held on an ongoing basis during project implementation through:

- Public consultations on the drafts of the Ten-Year Network Development Plans, part of which is the detailed information about the projects of common interest.
- Discussions and consultations with the public concerned in accordance with the effective Bulgarian legal provisions in the field of design and environmental protection, such as the Spatial Development Act, Environmental Protection Act and other legislation relevant to the particular stage of the project.

*MANUAL OF PROCEDURES:*

Manual of procedures for the permit granting process applicable to projects of common interest in the Republic of Bulgaria is published in line with Art. 9 of Regulation 347/2013 by the Ministry of Energy as the competent national authority.

## *EC INFORMATION PLATFORM*

More information regarding PCIs is available on the official website of the European Commission (EC).

## *CONTACT FORM:*

Any comments, questions and recommendations regarding PCI 6.8.3 can be sent

- by a feedback form;
- to the Company's official e-mail: info@bulgartransgaz.bg

## *PCI website:*

PCI website: https://www.bulgartransgaz.bg/en/pages/6-8-3-mezhdusistemna-gazova-vrazka-balgariya-sarbiya-ibs-191.html