



# FIELD DEVELOPMENT

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Work progress: pipe storage in Midia base Photo: BSOG

## Black Sea gas scheme forges ahead off Romania

BSOG says project completion is now over 30%, with first gas still expected in 2021 from Midia project

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By Anamaria Deduleasa in London

Romanian independent Black Sea Oil & Gas (BSOG) is forging ahead with development of its domestic flagship Midia gas project in the Black Sea, where it aims to start production next year.

BSOG, together with co-venture partners Petro Ventures Resources and Gas Plus International, completed the transportation of 147 kilometres of pipe from Greece to its storage yard in Romania's Constanta on the Black Sea coast during lockdown in the country due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



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### Covid-19 measures

The transport was handled by Greek player Corinth Pipeworks, which introduced preventative measures in response to the pandemic to protect employees, communities, suppliers and customers — measures that included setting up crisis management and re-operation teams.

The services company focused on minimising the probability of infection for its personnel by reducing physical interactions and implementing a mandatory disinfection programme.

The company also prepared an emergency response plan in case of Covid-19 infection of employees and third-party visitors, while also maintaining high levels of production, operations and project execution.

BSOG told Upstream that [pipelay work is expected to begin](#) as soon as the company completes the ongoing offshore geotechnical survey.

“Assuming that there are no interruptions due to Covid-19 related matters, we could be commencing the running of the offshore pipeline at the end of the summer at the earliest. The laying of the pipeline from the shore to the Ana platform location should take two months,” BSOG said.



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“Overall project completion is now over 30% and we are targeting for first gas still in 2021, while also being on budget,” it added.

### \$400m scheme

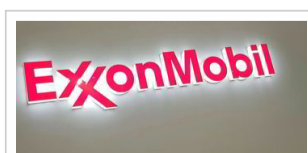
BSOG announced a [final investment decision](#) for the \$400 million Midia project — consisting of the Ana and Doina natural gas fields — in February last year. The fields hold estimated reserves of 320 billion cubic feet of gas.

The [Midia project](#) is planned to consist of five offshore production wells — one subsea well at the Doina field and four wells drilled from the platform at the Ana field — and a subsea gas production system over the Doina well, which will be connected via an 18-kilometre pipeline with a new unmanned production platform located over the Ana field.

“This project will provide new offshore infrastructure in a region where there are a number of significant undeveloped discoveries that need a development solution for taking gas from over 100 kilometres offshore through to an onshore landing and into the National Transmission System,” BSOG said.

### Neptun Deep

The Black Sea region is also home the giant [Neptun Deep project](#), a joint venture led by US supermajor ExxonMobil and local partner OMV Petrom.



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The US player has been trying to [exit Romania](#) and before the pandemic hit was testing market interest in its controlling stake in Neptun Deep, with reports speculating that other operators in the Black Sea, including Russia's Lukoil, Romania's Romgaz and BSOG, could be potential buyers.

BSOG has not revealed its level of interest in ExxonMobil's stakes but has previously said its “general mandate from shareholders is to seek added value growth opportunities in the Black Sea region particularly those involving the development of offshore gas discoveries where our new Midia infrastructure could be best utilised”. [\(Copyright\)](#)

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