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The Southern Gas Corridor: Full steam ahead?

The Southern Gas Corridor (SGC), a system of mega-pipelines linking Azerbaijan's Shah Deniz II full field development in the Caspian Sea to Europe via a 3,500 km pipeline, is viewed as a strategic imperative by the EU, which has backed the project to reduce dependence on Russian gas. The SGC will add around 16 Bcm of gas to the 9 Bcm produced by Shah Deniz I – 6 Bcm being consumed in Turkey and the remainder flowing to Europe. The SGC is sponsored by governments including Azerbaijan, Turkey and Georgia and under construction by a consortium that, collectively, includes Shah Deniz operator BP (UK), SOCAR (Azerbaijan), BOTAS (Turkey) and Snam (Italy). The SGC is arguably the gas industry's most significant and ambitious undertaking yet, involving seven governments and 11 companies. Gas Matters analyses the strategic importance of the project, as well as potential and actual pitfalls and the implications for the wider European energy market.

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