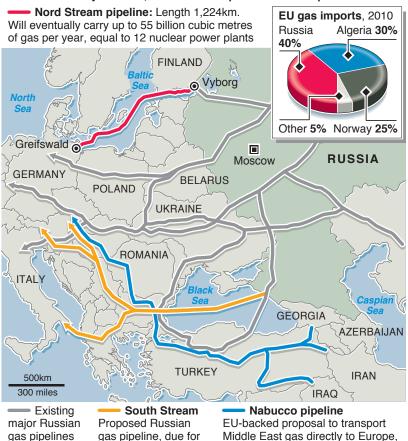
Russia readies gas pipeline to the West

Russia is preparing to launch a major new pipeline to pump natural gas directly to Western Europe via the Baltic Sea, bypassing nations such as the Ukraine. The \$12 billion Nord Stream pipeline is expected to come online by October, with a second parallel link completed in 2012



to Europe

bypassing Russia. Due by 2017