

Bristow successfully supported the world's longest subsea pipeline

CASE STUDY



Captains Aaron Rainbow (left) and Rosh Jaypalan in flight at sunset over the Baltic Sea.



Winter in Denmark in 2011 was the longest and coldest in 14 years.

“You can be proud of the team you have, with each and every one very professional. I hope we all meet up again.”

– Stella Gillanders, Logistics Coordinator, ENI Saipem

“The job went brilliantly and the only problem we were up against was the weather. There is not much we can do about that in the Baltic.”

– Stella Gillanders, Logistics Coordinator, ENI Saipem

CHALLENGE: Supporting the extensive range and payload criteria for the world's longest subsea pipeline project.

SOLUTION: Bristow's seamless operations and collaborative approach ensured quick and efficient movement of the complete operation from base to base, as needed.

BENEFIT: No disruption occurred to the pipeline project schedule.

Bristow's International Business Unit (IBU) provided an AS332L for crew change and medevac services for the Castoro Sei pipelaying vessel operated by ENI Saipem. The vessel was tasked with laying two gas pipelines as part of a major project involving five companies.

The pipelines, running from Vyborg, Russia, to Greifswald, Germany, are the longest subsea pipelines in the world at nearly 760 miles. From April 2010 to May 2012, as the Castoro Sei traveled the length of the Baltic Sea numerous times, Bristow's job was to move its base accordingly to provide the best-possible support.

The decision of where to base the aircraft was made with the client's requirements in mind, taking into account the range and payload criteria of the AS332L. Saipem was very satisfied with the flexibility that the AS332L offered.

We based in Bornholm, Denmark, when the southern section of the pipe was being laid; in Visby, Sweden, for the central section; and in Turku, Finland, for the northern section. In Bornholm, we endured the longest and coldest winter in 14 years, with snow up to 20 feet deep in places, in January 2011. Summer in Visby meant beaches and barbecues, and Turku was busy with shows and concerts as it was named the European City of Culture.



EFFICIENT, SEAMLESS OPERATIONS

The Bristow team became quite efficient at moving from base to base. We were able to move the complete operation – aircraft, spares, workshops, offices, planning rooms, check-in and security facilities – within one day and keep our promise to the client.

The team constantly changed as IBU staff members were needed to work on other contracts. Assistance from the European Business Unit (EBU) during the early part of the contract was greatly appreciated and a good example of employees from different working environments being flexible and seamlessly working together.