

7.3.1 EastMed Pipeline

The pipeline, which is the region's key export option, has an initial capacity of 10 billion cubic meters of gas, which can be expanded up to 20 billion cubic meters in a subsequent phase as additional energy supplies become available. About 1900 km long of EastMed section, the 1.300-km offshore gas pipeline runs from the offshore fields and runs from the offshore fields of Levantine Basin and links Cyprus and Crete, before traversing 600 km in Western Greece, through the Peloponnese, to its final 210 km stretch along the Ionian coast to reach Italy via the Poseidon section.

The EastMed-Poseidon project is on its path to the Final Investment Decision providing a competitive export route for East-Mediterranean reserves. Towards this, the EastMed-Poseidon project's development is advancing.

The EastMed Pre-FEED phase, namely technical feasibility studies, reconnaissance marine survey, as well as economic, financial and competitiveness studies, were successfully completed on schedule by 2018, with co-funding from the EU's CEF program comprising of a €1,927,924 grant. The Action contributed to enhancing the maturity of the project with a detailed and complete technical and economic assessment.

The Pre-FEED activities, including the RMS, did not identify any showstoppers in routing of the offshore and onshore pipelines. The assessment of the EastMed as a technically feasible, economically viable and commercially competitive project has allowed the project promoters to timely proceed with the FEED phase.

The FEED activities started, with the support of a CEF grant of up to 34 500 000 €. This include the studies required to provide the technical/ engineering details necessary to enable the Final Investment Decision. In this framework, following the award of the contracts, work has begun on The FEED Onshore pipeline, FEED Offshore pipeline contract, FEED Onshore Facilities and preparations are underway for the Detailed Marine Survey (DMS). The Preliminary environmental study – Scoping report for the section within the jurisdiction of Cyprus was prepared and duly submitted to the Cypriot authorities in December 2019. The tendering process is being finalized for the Environmental and Social Impact Assessments for construction and Permitting Services of respectively the onshore section of EastMed Pipeline Project and of the offshore sections of EastMed Pipeline Project, and both contracts will be awarded imminently.

Moreover, in April the Project Promoter published the EU notice for Engineering, Procurement, Installation and pre-Commissioning activities for the offshore sections of EastMed Pipeline Project. The contract will be awarded pursuant to the Competitive

Dialogue procedure during which, two selected candidates, will perform early preparatory engineering activities simultaneously with FEED. Tendering for this contract is currently being finalized.

On January 2, 2020 a dedicated Intergovernmental Agreement between Cyprus-Greece-Israel was signed for EastMed Pipeline. With the IGA the Parties have committed to cooperate in order to facilitate the permitting process and the regulatory decisions and ensure that the project will be constructed in accordance with the highest environmental standards. To this end, a Joint Committee is established composed of an equal number of representatives of the energy ministries and regulatory authorities of each Party, to monitor the project's development, construction and operation and to facilitate the implementation of the Agreement.

In October 2019, the project has been included in the 4th list for Projects of Common Interest List.

Pursuant to Regulation 347/2013, at the end of 2019 the project promoter notified the project to the Competent Authorities of Greece and Cyprus. Following the acceptance of the notification file by the Greek Competent Authority on March 3, 2020 and by the Cyprus Competent Authority on September 2, 2020, the project has entered the permit granting process on September 2020.

