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Chinese Gas Drilling Rig Finds Deposit in Russian Arctic

The rig has found a total of 1.2 trillion cubic meters of gas in the Kara Sea.

By The Barents Observer

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China and Russia are cooperating in the gas drilling. **lima_1 / fototerra.ru**

Chinese gas drilling rig the Nan Hai Ba Hao, in cooperation with Russia's Gazprom, has found a large natural gas deposit in the Kara Sea, bringing the total it has identified in the area over the past decade to more than 1.2 trillion cubic meters.

The rig, which weighs 15,469 metric tons has been transported from the South China Sea to the Russian Arctic two years in a row.

In 2017, it drilled in the Leningradskoye license area of the Kara Sea, and the following year in the nearby Rusanvoskoye area.

Gazprom has confirmed that the Rusanvoskoye drilling discovered 390.2 billion cubic meters of gas. The discovery has been named after Soviet Energy Minister Vassily Dinkov and is located about 100 kilometers off the west coast of the Yamal Peninsula.

The Nan Hai Ba Hao is owned by the China Oilfield Service Limited.

The rig will be back in Russian Arctic waters in 2019, according to the Northern Sea Route administration.

Gazprom's Arcticheskaya and Amazon rigs have also been active in the Kara Sea, in the Nyarmeysky and Severo-Obskoye license areas. Both rigs are owned by Gazprom subsidiary Gazprom Flot.

According to Gazprom, drilling in the Nyarmeysky plot revealed a total of 120.8 billion cubic meters. The Severo-Obskoye structure holds more than 300 billion cubic meters, license holder Novatek has said.

The discoveries offshore in the Kara Sea come as both Gazprom and Novatek are in the process of making unprecedented field developments in the nearby Yamal Peninsula.

Gazprom operates the Bovanenkovo field and will, in 2023, launch production at the Kharasavey field. Novatek is operator of the Yamal liquified natural gas (LNG) project and is in the process of developing the Arctic LNG 2 project.

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