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News from the Arctic

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THIS WEEK FROM AROUND THE ARCTIC

Nares Strait arch break-up imminent



The image to the left shows ice coverage in the Arctic Ocean in the area of the Lincoln Sea, north of Ellesmere Island (Canada) and Greenland. Large fractures have developed over the weekend in the consolidated multi-year pack ice. The Canadian Ice Service is expecting the ice bridge to collapse within the next few days, perhaps even sooner, due to the strong winds and high tides in the area.

Although the breakup of the arch collapse is imminent, the pouring of old ice into Nares

Strait will not occur in the days to come unless the water currents force the ice down Nares or if the winds shift from the north. The Greenpeace vessel *Arctic Sunrise* is anchored off Petermann Glacier (seen to the lower right side of the image) in Greenland, documenting the effects of climate change. *Sources: Canadian Coast Guard and Environment Canada*

Related blog: “**There's something afoot in the Arctic**” (CNN, 07/07/09)

<http://www.cnn.com/2009/TECH/science/07/07/arctic.explorer.climate.change/>

NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

MARITIME

ALASKA/UNITED STATES

Tighter emissions rules for large U.S.-flagged vessels (SIKU News, 07/07/09)

<http://www.sikunews.com/art.html?artid=6650&catid=1>

A rule proposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requires tighter emission standards for new large marine diesel engines and the use of diesel fuel with a lower sulfur content on container ships, tankers, bulk carriers, and cruise ships. The International Maritime Organization, a United Nations agency, begins consideration of the EPA plan this month. If

adopted, it would result in stringent standards for large ships operating within 200 nautical miles of the coasts of Canada and the United States, except those of the American Arctic.

Northwest borough makes offer to buy Red Dog road, port (Alaska Journal of Commerce, 07/02/09)

http://www.alaskajournal.com/stories/070209/loc_10_002.shtml

The Northwest Arctic Borough has made a new proposal for acquiring or gaining an interest in the Red Dog mine road and port owned by the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority, the state corporation that owns the facilities that support the mine's operations. Red Dog, the world's largest zinc and lead mine, is about 90 miles north of Kotzebue. The mine is operated by Teck Cominco on land owned by NANA Regional Corp.

Congress tackles new safety laws for fishing fleet (The Seattle Times, 06/28/09)

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2009393344_fishingsafety28m0.html

Congress this year may impose new construction standards on the nation's fishing vessels, require training of skippers and mandate Coast Guard inspections in what would be the first major overhaul of the safety laws that regulate the nation's deadliest occupation. Despite a substantial reduction in deaths during the past two decades, the fishing industry still has the nation's highest worker-fatality rate. In recent years, fishermen died at a rate more than 25 times the national average for occupational deaths. After lagging behind Europe in fishing-vessel-construction standards, the United States would, with the House legislation, vault to the international forefront of such regulation.

CANADA

Baffinland Iron Mines may have to revise shipping from Nunavut (CBC News, 07/03/09)

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/north/story/2009/07/03/baffinland-nirb.html>

Baffinland Iron Mines may have to consider other routes to ship ore from its proposed Mary River mine site in Nunavut, due to public concerns presented to environmental assessors earlier this year. As a result of the public consultations, the Nunavut Impact Review Board suggested that Baffinland study whether it can move its port to the east coast of Baffin Island to avoid Foxe Basin.

Military contracts Radarsat 2 for Arctic surveillance (canada.com, 07/03/09)

<http://www.canada.com/Technology/Military+contracts+Radarsat+Arctic+surveillance/1757832/story.html>

Canada's ability to watch over its coastlines and the Arctic will get a boost early next year when an orbiting satellite is upgraded, allowing it to better conduct surveillance of vessels. Polar Epsilon involves using the satellite for both Arctic and maritime surveillance, as well as constructing new ground stations to receive the data from the spacecraft. The Defence Department has budgeted \$64 million for the overall project.

Scientists' tracking of seabirds yields clues to health of oceans (CBC News, 07/02/09)

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/north/story/2009/07/01/nunavut-murres.html>

Scientists in Nunavut and Newfoundland and Labrador are keeping a close watch on a species of seabirds known as thick-billed murre, which they say could provide clues about the health of the ocean waters around Canada. Scientists say they provide a good indication on the health of oceans, particularly how they're affected by a changing climate, sea ice conditions, development and the presence of contaminants such as mercury.

GLOBAL

Electronic navigation: Improved training and auditing will enhance navigation safety

(MarineLink, 07/02/09)

<http://marinelink.com/Story/ElectronicNavigation%3aImprovedTrainingandAuditingWillEnhanceNavigationSafety-215951.html>

Modern electronic navigation systems have the potential to improve vessel navigation safety and reduce accidents. Fully realizing the potential in electronic navigation will require improved training, a wider spectrum of knowledge across the industry and better procedures by vessel owners and managers to assess qualification and proper use. At the same time, as incidents related to the use of AIS or ECDIS occur, courts are putting owners and managers on notice that such training and monitoring is required to avoid or limit their liability for accidents.

GREENLAND

Ice leaves East waiting (Sermitsiaq, 07/07/09)

<http://sermitsiaq.gl/indland/article89500.ece?lang=EN>

Narsaq on Greenland's east coast will have to wait a little longer to get much needed provisions after the *Nuka Arctica* was forced to turn back from southern Greenland due to large amounts of sea ice. Towns on Greenland's eastern coast are dependent on ship deliveries, and communities often run out of certain goods leading up to the next expected arrival.

ICELAND

Coast Guard welcomes new aircraft (IcelandReview, 07/02/09)

http://www.icelandreview.com/icelandreview/daily_news/?cat_id=29314&ew_0_a_id=336244

TF-SIF, the Icelandic Coast Guard's new surveillance and rescue plane replaces TF-SYN, a Fokker aircraft that serviced the Coast Guard for 32 years. According to news source *Fréttabladid*, the Dash-8 Q300 bears the name of a Dauphin Coast Guard helicopter which crashed into the ocean at Straumsvík Bay, in July of 2007. A Dash-8 Q300 aircraft is commonly used by surveillance and rescue teams worldwide.

RUSSIA

Expanding the port of Murmansk (BarentsObserver, 07/07/09)

<http://www.barentsobserver.com/expanding-the-port-of-murmansk.4612761-116321.html>

By 2015, the goods turnover of the Murmansk Transport Hub will total 15 million tons and by 2020 - 84 million tons, figures from the Russian Ministry of Transport read. An increasing part of the goods handling will take place on the western side of the Kola Bay, where major infrastructure and industry is planned, Oilru.com reports. *Related article: [The Murmansk Transport Hub development is financed.](#)*

Icebreaker cruise to North Pole (BarentsObserver, 07/07/09)

<http://www.barentsobserver.com/north-pole-cruise.4612765-116321.html>

Put into service as a cruise ship last year, *50 Years of Victory* is the world's largest icebreaker. The vessel has everything from saloon, lounge and shop to saunas, gym and indoor pool. Equipped with two nuclear reactors, the icebreaker will crash through ice meters thick. The Russian fleet of nuclear powered icebreakers, with Murmansk as its homeport, has offered tourist cruises to the North Pole since the early 90s. Russia is the only country in the world operating a fleet of civilian nuclear powered vessels.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

ALASKA/UNITED STATES

FCC broadband roadmap aims to bring order to stimulus chaos (ars technical, 07/05/09)

<http://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/news/2009/07/the-fccs-broadband-road-map.ars>

Julius Genachowski's Federal Communications Commission hit the ground running, publishing a timeline of all broadband related projects it hopes to finish through February 17 of next year. That's the date when the Commission must send to Congress its National Broadband Plan - a set of recommendations for making sure that everybody in the United States has access to broadband.

Biden announces rural broadband funding (MSN Money, 07/01/09)

<http://news.moneycentral.msn.com/provider/providerarticle.aspx?feed=AP&date=20090701&id=10112863>

Vice President Joe Biden outlined a \$4.7 billion loan and grant program to develop the infrastructure needed to deliver broadband, or high-speed, Internet access to areas that are underserved or without access. The \$4.7 billion is part of \$7.2 billion included in the federal stimulus package to improve rural Internet access. The Commerce and Agriculture Departments will consider an area "underserved" by broadband, and thus eligible for grants, if half or fewer of the households can get wired broadband today, among other criteria. *Related article: [U.S. agencies require net neutrality with broadband grants](#); Link to [Notice of Funding Availability](#).*

CANADA

Digital cable arrives in Iqaluit (Nunatsiaq News, 06/30/09)

http://www.nunatsiaqonline.ca/stories/article/digital_cable_arrives_in_iqaluit/

Cable television in Iqaluit went digital. Iqaluit Cable, run by Arctic Co-ops Ltd., announced last month they'll expand the number of channels available and eventually offer high definition television. But the new service also means the end of analog television July 1, so subscribers will need a set-top decoder box to watch the new channels.

RUSSIA

Analysis: Television struggles to survive in digital world (RIA Novosti, 07/02/09)

<http://en.rian.ru/analysis/20090702/155417982.html>

The head of Channel One, Konstantin Ernst, refers to the current situation as the death of analog television, which has existed in its current model for the past 15-20 years. According to Mr. Ernst, its format and communication system have finally outlived their capacity. On the one hand, the Internet has won over the tech-savvy portion of the audience; on the other hand, the onset of digital TV and radio broadcasting is approaching, with the first fiddle likely to be played by the subscribers of a certain major channel, rather than the advertisers.

Opinion: Telenor's worst nightmare (St. Petersburg Times, 06/30/09)

http://www.sptimes.ru/index.php?action_id=2&story_id=29372

Under Russian law, the court can take ownership of confiscated property after a second trial - even if there is an appeal pending to the Supreme Court. So, Telenor's shares in VimpelCom can be sold on the open market before September and before any consideration by the Supreme Court. Court marshals said on June 19 that they had approved an order to auction off Telenor's shares and that the parties were in the process of being notified. For Norway, the VimpelCom affair could have an impact beyond Telenor. The Norwegian government needs to rethink the implications of Statoil, the Norwegian oil conglomerate, as a junior partner in the Shtokman petroleum field in the Barents Sea, where Gazprom is very much in the driving seat.

AVIATION

ALASKA/UNITED STATES

FAA's new NextGen vector: Blue sky thinking; blue collar action (Flight International, 07/07/09)

<http://www.flightglobal.com/articles/2009/07/07/329204/faas-new-nextgen-vector-blue-sky-thinking-blue-collar.html>

The U.S.A. is revolutionizing its air traffic management system to make it more efficient, safer and greener. The plan for NextGen is under way and the FAA is targeting 2018 as the date when operators will begin to reap its benefits. A special report looks at the technology behind the ambitious program and the steps needed to bring it to fruition.

BizAv groups fear costs in climate bill (Aviation Week, 07/07/09)

<http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/CLIMATE070709.xml&headline=BizAv%20Groups%20Fear%20Costs%20In%20Climate%20Bill&channel=busav>

Business aviation advocates are becoming increasingly concerned that a sweeping climate-change bill that has the potential to shape the future of aviation operations continues to progress through Capitol Hill with few details on how it might impact the aviation industry.

FINLAND

Finnair traffic and fares dive in June (NewsRoom Finland, 07/07/09)

<http://newsroom.finland.fi/stt/showarticle.asp?intNWSAID=22275&group=Business>

Finnish flag carrier Finnair reported plummeting traffic and average fare figures, citing weak demand. The government-controlled outfit posted a 13.4-per cent year-on-year drop in traffic in June and an 18-per cent reduction in fares in the second quarter. Finnair cut its capacity by 14.2

per cent year-on-year in June, pushing its passenger load factor up by 0.6 percentage points to 74.0 per cent.

NORWAY

Passenger record for Norwegian in June (The Norway Post, 07/07/09)

<http://www.norwaypost.no/content/view/22223/26/>

The total number of passengers flying Norwegian in June reached 977,000, a new record for a single month for the airline, and a growth of 15 per cent from the same month last year. Much of the increase is the result of new destinations in Denmark, but there is also an increase in the number of passengers on domestic flights inside Norway.

REGION

Canadian search scaled back for missing U.S. pilot, passenger (CBC News, 07/06/09)

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/north/story/2009/07/06/plane-search-yukon.html>

Efforts in the Yukon to find an American couple and their small airplane were scaled back, more than two weeks after the aircraft was reported missing. At one point, upwards of 90 military and volunteer personnel were searching for pilot Gary Patigler and his wife Ingrid, who left in their Beechwood Bonanza aircraft on June 20 from an airstrip near Anchorage, Alaska. Although Patigler's flight plan said they would land in Whitehorse three hours later, they never arrived in the Yukon capital. Both Canadian and U.S. search crews have been scouring around the Yukon-Alaska border since.

“Clean Sky” gets off the ground despite initial delay (EurActiv, 07/03/09)

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/transport/clean-sky-gets-ground-despite-initial-delay/article-183757>

The €1.6 billion European programme to drive the aviation sector towards more environmentally-friendly development is now on track, according to Allan Cook, president of the Aerospace and Defense industries association of Europe (ASD). The ASD president announced that industry's carbon reduction target, as set by the Advisory Council for Aeronautics Research in Europe (ACARE), aims to reduce CO2 emissions and noise by 50% on 2000 levels for new aircraft entering into service in the year 2020. Cook revealed that his industry would supply half of the €1.6 billion programme, with the European Commission providing the other half.

RUSSIA

Putin backs Boeing's activity in Russia (RIA Novosti, 07/07/09)

<http://en.rian.ru/business/20090707/155461429.html>

Russian titanium producer VSMPO-Avisma and U.S. Boeing unveiled a components-manufacturing joint venture in the Urals town of Verkhnyaya Salda. Ural Boeing Manufacturing will process titanium parts for the production of Boeing 787 Dreamliners and Russian airliners. Ural Boeing Manufacturing, with total investment of \$70 million, is expected to reach its operational capacity in 2010.

International standards for Murmansk airport (BarentsObserver, 07/04/09)

<http://www.barentsobserver.com/international-standards-for-murmansk-airport.4612430-116321.html>

The upgrade of the Murmansk Airport to international standards is vital as the region engages in huge projects like the Shtokman development, Russian Transport Minister Igor Levitin said. According to the minister, this year the airport will get new asphalt on the runway and next year will be extended with space for more aircraft.

Aeroflot-Nord could go bankrupt (BarentsObserver, 07/01/09)

<http://www.barentsobserver.com/aeroflot-nord-could-go-bankrupt.4611611-116320.html>

Arkhangelsk-based Aeroflot Nord must draw up a reorganisation plan before mid-July, otherwise bankrupt procedures will start. Aeroflot Nord operates a fleet of 11 Boeing 737, 10 Tu-134 and six An-24/An-26 aircrafts. The company is currently the only airliner with regular flights from northern-Russia to northern-Norway.

SCANDINAVIA

SAS reports sharp drop in June traffic (The Local, 07/07/09)

<http://www.thelocal.se/20518/20090707/>

Scandinavian airline operator SAS Group saw its overall passenger traffic decrease by 14.1 percent in June compared with the same month last year. Across all its airlines, SAS saw a similar decrease in seat capacity, while passengers carried dropped by 19.9 percent to 2.4 million passengers. The airline's intercontinental traffic dropped by 16.2 percent, a fall SAS attributed to the weaker global economy affecting long-haul demand more than shorter routes.

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

Airbus to experiment with "Taxibot" to reduce fuel costs, emissions (Aero-News Network, 07/02/09)

<http://www.aero-news.net/news/commair.cfm?ContentBlockID=1e7bfc4f-a59e-40bf-ad67-9a8d3701524c&Dynamic=1>

Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) and Airbus signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the 2009 International Paris Air Show to jointly develop and test an environmentally friendly pilot-controlled towing semi-robotic system. The Taxibot Dispatch Towing system, designed by IAI, would allow both wide and narrow body commercial airplanes to taxi to and from the gate and the runway without the use of their jet engines. According to IAI, the Taxibot Dispatch Towing concept represents a potential to reduce annual fuel costs from \$8 billion to less than \$2 billion, CO2 emissions from 18 billion tons to less than 2 million tons per year, and noise emissions by a significant margin.

OTHER AREAS OF GENERAL INTEREST

ALASKA/UNITED STATES

Audio: Scientists might redraw map for Ice Age (APRN, 07/06/09)

<http://aprn.org/2009/07/06/scientists-might-redraw-map-for-ice-age/>

The Ice Age must have been icier than we thought - at least in Alaska. A new find by permafrost scientists on the North Slope is likely to re-draw the map of where the ice was ten to thirty thousand years ago.

Audio: Obama team coming to Alaska (APRN, 07/01/09)

<http://aprn.org/2009/07/01/obama-team-coming-to-alaska/>

Five of President Obama's top cabinet secretaries will visit Bethel next month as part of a "rural tour." The group includes Energy Secretary Steven Chu, Education Secretary Arne Duncan, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan. They'll be in Bethel August 12 to talk about rural infrastructure, green jobs and climate change. Bethel is the only Alaska community on the list so far.

CANADA

Arctic research stations getting a major makeover (CTV.ca, 07/04/09)

http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20090704/arctic_station_090704/20090704?hub=SciTech

Inuvik's Aurora Research Institute, Canada's flagship research station in the western Arctic, and three other research stations across the North, are set to begin major rebuilds to give Canadian and international scientists a modern platform for modern science. Research in the centres deals with everything from plants and animals to the lifestyles of people who live in the Arctic. Canada's claims to the waters off its Arctic coastlines will be based on research conducted at centres such as Aurora.

REGION

Arctic could be next hot spot for NORAD (The Gazette, 07/06/09)

<http://www.gazette.com/articles/arctic-57992-norad-bouchard.html>

Canadian Lt. Gen. Charlie Bouchard, deputy commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command based at Peterson Air Force Base, said in an interview that the Arctic's rich reservoir of resources is spurring interest in development that should trigger greater oversight by NORAD. "As we look north, there's more activity," he said, noting 400 to 450 planes per day fly over the Arctic. Bouchard said NORAD should work with the Arctic Council.

Fresh water pouring into the Arctic basin, study says (SIKU News, 07/05/09)

<http://www.sikunews.com/art.html?artid=6644&catid=19>

Fresh water flowing into or out of the Arctic Ocean plays an important role in ocean circulation and may be a factor in the response of the world ocean to climate change. A new scientific study shows a dramatic increase in the amount of fresh water in the Arctic Ocean as well as a significant change in the distribution of fresh water, as compared with average winter values.

The Swedish EU Presidency (The Government Offices of Sweden, 07/01/09)

<http://www.se2009.eu/en>

From 1 July 2009 and for six months Sweden holds the Presidency of the EU. Sweden will lead the EU's work and be responsible for moving important EU issues forward. "The Presidency

slogan is 'Taking on the challenge'. It could not be more appropriate," said Commission President José Manuel Barroso at a joint press conference with Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt at Stockholm City Hall. *Related article:* [Sweden pushes EU climate ambitions](#).

UNCLOS (UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA)

Opinion: Preparing for a sea change (The Washington Post, 07/05/09)

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/07/03/AR2009070301125.html>

The Arctic is a frozen sea surrounded by five coastal states: the United States, Russia, Canada, Norway and Denmark (on behalf of Greenland). Conflicting claims to territorial limits - particularly between the United States and Canada - will be brought to a head by commercial and military use of the area. Improving relations with Russia will help. But that is not an end-all. Obama should also rapidly push Congress to ratify the long-neglected Law of the Sea Treaty. Time, and global warming's tides, wait for no president.

FISHERIES

Russian Far East border guards free illegally caught crabs (RIA Novosti, 07/07/09)

<http://en.rian.ru/Environment/20090707/155455834.html>

Border guards on Russia's Far East island of Sakhalin have released into the sea over 26 metric tons of live crabs from two vessels earlier detained for poaching, a border guard spokeswoman said. She added that over 223 metric tons of live crabs and fish were released into the sea in 2009, preventing losses of more than 183 million rubles (\$5.8 million). A total of 47 vessels were detained for poaching since the start of the year, 22 of them were flying a foreign flag.

Extension of the Grey Zone agreement (BarentsObserver, 07/02/09)

<http://www.barentsobserver.com/extension-of-the-grey-zone-agreement.4611862-116320.html>

Norway and Russia have exchanged letters about extending the interim agreement on joint measures of fisheries and fisheries regulations in the Barents Sea. The agreement, called the Grey Zone agreement, was concluded between Norway and the Soviet Union in 1978. The essence of this agreement is that in the area in question, both countries are to refrain from conducting inspections or from exercising any form of control over the other country's fishing vessels. It also contains provisions relating to how the parties are to treat third-country vessels.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Greenland emission quota issue remains unresolved (Sermitsiaq, 07/07/09)

<http://sermitsiaq.gl/klima/article89332.ece?lang=EN>

Greenland is concerned it will be forced to purchase emission quotas to offset the carbon dioxide emissions associated with its industrialisation, as would be required if it is a signatory to any successor of the Kyoto Treaty. Greenland wants to be subject to the less strict

requirements placed on developing countries, but Denmark has said it will put forward any special request on Greenland's behalf to allow for industrial development.

U.S. marine-mammal experts fear for Arctic (Globe and Mail, 07/03/09)

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/technology/science/us-marine-mammal-experts-fear-for-arctic/article805420/>

U.S. marine-mammal experts in Alaska studying the effects of global warming on walrus, polar bears and ice seals warn there are limits to the protections they can provide. They can restrict hunters, ship traffic and offshore petroleum activity, but that may not be enough if the animals' basic habitat – sea ice – disappears every summer.

Sea ice at lowest level in 800 years near Greenland (ScienceDaily, 07/02/09)

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/07/090701102900.htm>

New research, which reconstructs the extent of ice in the sea between Greenland and Svalbard from the 13th century to the present, indicates that there has never been so little sea ice as there is now. By combining the curve of the climate with the actual historical records of the distribution of the ice, researchers from the Niels Bohr Institute, among others, have been able to reconstruct the extent of the sea ice all the way back to the 13th century.

ENERGY

Sixth pipeline bombing, second in a week confirmed in B.C. (Calgary Herald, 07/04/09)

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/news/Sixth+pipeline+blast+second+week+confirmed/1760847/story.html>

There has been a sixth bombing of natural gas infrastructure in northeastern British Columbia, police say. Officials said the explosion occurred early July 4 at an EnCana Corp. site, in the immediate vicinity of a blast that took place July 1.

Swimming in natural gas (National Post, 07/04/09)

<http://www.nationalpost.com/story.html?id=1758452>

Market experts continue to expect weak prices for natural gas as a surge in unconventional gas discoveries, such as shale plays, pour on to an already-flooded market. Add in unpredictable weather and a slower-than-forecast economic recovery, and the outlook doesn't get much brighter.

Medvedev highlights energy saving, alternative energy (BarentsObserver, 07/04/09)

<http://www.barentsobserver.com/medvedev-highlights-energy-saving-alternative-energy.4612432-116321.html>

Russia spends an estimated 3.5 times more energy than the European average. President Dmitry Medvedev has called for the implementation of major energy saving measures and alternative energy generation, saying that alternative energy sooner or later will replace hydrocarbons.

Repeated delays of Mackenzie Valley gas pipeline fill Inuvik with dread (Financial Post, 07/02/09)

<http://www.financialpost.com/news-sectors/energy/story.html?id=1750698>

Not a shovel has been sunk into the permafrost after nearly 10 years of planning. Meanwhile, the cost - financial and human - has been huge: \$700-million to \$800-million has been spent by the oil and pipeline companies - Imperial Oil Ltd. and parent Exxon Mobil Corp., Royal Dutch Shell PLC, ConocoPhillips Ltd. and the Aboriginal Pipeline Group (APG) - to get to this stage.

Gazprom Neft eyes production in Yamal Peninsula (BarentsObserver, 07/02/09)

<http://www.barentsobserver.com/gazprom-neft-eyes-production-in-yamal-peninsula.4611881-116321.html>

Gazprom's oil unit, Gazprom Neft, is likely to take over the license to the Novoportskoe oil and condensate field in Yamal, Gazprom deputy head Aleksandr Ananenko confirmed. The development of the Novoportskoe field was started in the 1980s but then stalled. The gas-rich Yamal Peninsula is a top priority for Gazprom.

FROM THE TELEGRAPH WIRES

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