

Russia, China sign gas deal

REUTERS

BEIJING, MARCH 21

RUSSIAN gas monopoly Gazprom has signed a memorandum with CNPC to build two pipelines that will eventually supply China with 60-80 billion cubic metres of gas a year, Gazprom's Chief executive said on Tuesday.

A first pipeline would pump gas from western Siberian fields, and the first supplies could flow across the border in five years, CEO Alexei Miller said.

But it was not clear when the pipe, which might feed Indo-China existing West-East pipeline, would reach full capacity. "We are talking about 30 to 40 bcm a year by each route. Western Siberia will be a quicker project to realise," he said during a meeting between



Vladimir Putin with Chinese President Hu Jintao

Chinese President Hu Jintao and his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin.

Gas for a second pipeline would come from Sakhalin and maybe the Kovykta field in East Siberia, in which Gazprom has been offered a stake by licence holder TNK-BP, he added, but did not give a timescale for when it might start flowing.

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