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- Recent Hits Real Times News Opportunities Take a Stand Letters Archives Blog Line World Links

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SPECIAL TO WORLD TRIBUNE

Monday, July 21, 2008

Pipelines to deliver oil, gas, water, data to Israel from Turkey

ANKARA — Israel was said to be near an agreement for another pipeline with Turkey.

Officials said Israel and Turkey were negotiating the construction of five pipeline links, one of which could transport 40 million tons of crude oil per year, Middle East Newsline reported. They said Russia would provide gas for the Medstream pipeline, meant to deliver Caspian Sea gas and oil to India.

Officials said an eight million euro feasibility study would be completed in May 2009. They said the pipelines would also transport water and electricity as well as data via fiber optics to Israel.

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"We are very close to reaching an agreement with Russia that would supply the pipeline with natural gas," Israeli Infrastructure Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, who met Guler, said.

"I have visited both Azerbaijan and Russia in order to seek resources for the project. We are very close to signing an agreement with Russia, one is a memorandum of understanding and the other is commercial."

"The project is moving fast," Turkish Energy Minister Hilmi Guler said on July 17. "We are now trying to set up the budget. We are planning to complete the project three years after the finalization of the feasibility studies."

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