

Gazprom Neft, Novatek Counter Rosneft Gas Deal

By [The Moscow Times](#)

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Gazprom Neft and Novatek are in talks to buy Italian energy company Enel's indirect stake in gas producer SeverEnergiya, which Enel has just agreed to sell to Rosneft, a Novatek co-owner said Wednesday.

On Tuesday, Rosneft agreed to buy Enel's 40 percent stake in Arctic Russia B.V., leading to Rosneft's indirect ownership of a 19.6 percent stake in SeverEnergiya, where 51 percent is owned by a Gazprom Neft and Novatek joint venture.

But Gennady Timchenko, a co-owner of Novatek, said Novatek and Gazprom Neft were in their own talks over the stake, signaling a row between him and Igor Sechin, the powerful chief executive of Rosneft.

"Based on what I saw in Rosneft's statement, there are some suspensive conditions," he said, Prime news agency reported.

Italy's Eni also has an indirect stake in SeverEnergiya, a production venture with assets in the Yamal-Nenets autonomous region.

Gazprom, the parent company of Gazprom Neft, and Rosneft also clashed Wednesday over plans by the latter and Exxon to build a liquified natural gas (LNG) plant in the Far East. Gazprom voiced strong opposition to the plans, while Rosneft dismissed its criticism, saying it did not need advice from rivals.

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