President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin marked the completion of the offshore section of TurkStream on November 19 in Istanbul.

Speaking at the completion ceremony, President Erdoğan said: “The TurkStream Project, which will transport 31.5 billion-cubic-meter natural gas annually, has many advantages not only for our country and nation but also for our neighbors and the environment. We plan to transfer at least half of the natural gas, transported through here, to Europe. Our critical production and export centers such as Istanbul, Bursa, Kocaeli, Izmir, will have a new supply line. Thus, Turkey will be able to meet both its own and the European countries’ demand for natural gas without experiencing transit risks.”

Russian President Putin added that TurkStream and the Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant will be symbols of the development of relations between Turkey and Russia, noting that his country wants to reach a USD 100 billion bilateral trade volume with Turkey.

The TurkStream Project, which will deliver Russian natural gas across the Black Sea to Turkey and then onward to Europe, will have two pipelines of 939 kilometers long each when finished. The first line, designed for Turkey, will meet 35 percent of Turkey’s natural gas consumption and will start delivering at the end of 2019.

Turkey’s agenda in recent weeks included the launching and inauguration of two strategic projects; TurkStream and the new Istanbul Airport. Both projects are highly important in improving Turkey’s geo-strategic role in its region.

As the Investment Office, we were also very active in November. We attended the inauguration of GE’s R&D center in Gebze and made a test-drive of the hybrid version of Toyota’s iconic Corolla, which will be mass-produced in Turkey starting next year.

Also keeping us busy in November were workshops and roundtable meetings in Kuwait, Spain, and Japan.
ISTANBUL AIRPORT - WORLD'S NEW HUB - OFFICIALLY OPENED

Istanbul Airport, which is set to become the world's largest airport and an example to the world in a number of fields from its size to its infrastructure, security systems, and architecture, was formally opened to air traffic on October 29, 2018, the 95th anniversary of the Republic of Turkey, during a ceremony attended by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

The new airport will assume most of the passenger traffic from Atatürk International Airport and will become one of the world's largest transport hubs. Hosting more than 250 airlines flying to more than 350 destinations, the new airport will serve up to 3,500 takeoffs and landings per day and the initial phase has an annual capacity of 90 million passengers. This can be raised to 150 million once all phases have been completed, and it has the potential to ultimately reach 200 million. Built on an area of 76.5 million square meters and opened with 3 runways in the initial phase, Istanbul Airport is a mega project that will have a total of 6 runways, 2 million square meters of indoor space, 6.5 million square meters of tarmac, rail transportation between the terminals, cargo and general aviation terminals, and indoor and outdoor parking lots.

Istanbul Airport will generate its own energy and will create 120,000 jobs. The project represents a total economic size of EUR 32.4 billion excluding taxes. This figure constitutes an investment cost of EUR 10.2 billion and EUR 22.2 billion for rental costs to be paid to the government. Built under the build-operate-transfer (BOT) model, construction and operation of the new airport has been carried out by the Limak-Kolin-Cengiz-Mapa-Kalyon consortium under the name of Istanbul Grand Airport (IGA) company, and other stages of the airport will be completed by 2028.

With Istanbul Airport coming into service, Turkey has become the most important transit hub between the north-south and east-west axes. The airport connects 60 countries and economies of USD 20 trillion to one another.

TURKEY EARN SPOT AMONG TOP 10 GLOBAL IMPROVERS ACCORDING TO WORLD BANK

The World Bank recently published “Doing Business 2019 Report”. Turkey, having carried out a record number of business reforms over the past year, has earned a spot among the top 10 global improvers.

Ranking 60th in the previous year’s report, Turkey advanced 17 spots to 43rd in the World Bank’s Ease of Doing Business ranking for 2019.

The report tracks economic reforms made between June 2, 2017 and May 1, 2018 and covers issues in 190 economies, such as starting a business, dealing with construction permits, getting credit, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts, and resolving insolvency, which are essential in employment, stimulating investments, and supporting growth.

With seven reforms implemented by the Turkish government, Turkey gained 4.34 points since last year and received 74.33 out of 100 in 2019. With this advancement, Turkey is placed 9th among the top 10 improvers on the list.
TOYOTA BEGINS MASS PRODUCTION OF NEW COROLLA HYBRID IN TURKEY

Starting next year, Japanese automotive giant Toyota will begin mass production of its new Corolla hybrid in Turkey. The hybrid version of the automaker’s iconic Corolla will make its global debut when it rolls off the production line in Turkey in Q1 2019.

Toyota Corolla’s hybrid version will benefit from Turkey’s newly-unveiled special consumption tax incentive, becoming a source of pride for Turkey and a driving force for Toyota in today’s highly-competitive auto market.

Industry and Technology Minister Mustafa Varank announced that the new fuel-efficient model will be exported to 100 countries from Turkey. “I had the opportunity to drive Toyota Corolla’s sedan hybrid. A hybrid car of this type will be produced in Turkey for the first time. Electric and hybrid vehicles are becoming widespread and are replacing conventional engines. With these new models of hybrid vehicles, which provide fuel savings of up to 50 percent, Turkey will see declines in fuel imports and thus reduce its foreign trade deficit,” said Varank.

GENERAL ELECTRIC TO DEVELOP MANUFACTURING TECH FOR AVIATION IN TURKEY

General Electric Aviation opened the Additive Manufacturing Technologies R&D Laboratory in TÜBİTAK Marmara Technopark Free Zone in a bid to support Turkey’s R&D know-how, develop state-of-the-art technologies, and thus foster competent engineers and researchers. Over 15 Turkish engineers have been recruited from the US, Germany, Netherlands, and Switzerland for US-based General Electric’s new lab in Gebze, south of Istanbul.

Speaking at the ceremony, Minister Varank stated that this facility was one of GE’s three global laboratories. He added that one of the goals of the Ministry is to position Turkey as a leading production hub in industry and technology. “We have embarked on our National Technology, Strong Industry vision. Our ultimate goal is to make Turkey a leading production hub in industry and technology. GE’s laboratory will be a milestone in making Turkey one of the future tech centers,” said Varank.

With the new R&D laboratory, GE’s total investment in Turkey exceeds USD 15 million.

PIRELLI’S LICENSED MANUFACTURER PROMETEON INVESTS IN TURKEY

Italian-based tire producer Pirelli’s licensed manufacturer Prometeon will be investing USD 115 million in its factory in northwestern Turkey.

Speaking at the launching meeting, Prometeon’s Chief Operations Officer Gregorio Borgo said that Pirelli has invested USD 500 million in Turkey so far and will contribute an additional USD 115 million during 2018-2020 period. He added that the company’s investments will boost production at the factory through the use of high technology.

In the wake of the meeting, COO Borgo was received by Minister of Industry and Technology Mustafa Varank, where the minister stated that the company will double its exports from Turkey to 75 countries, rising to USD 250 million from USD 125 million.

Operating for more than 60 years in Turkey under the Pirelli brand, Prometeon is also the owner of the first tire factory in Turkey.
EVENTS

NOVEMBER 6 | ISTANBUL
The Investment Office’s A. Burak Dağhoğlu spoke at a seminar jointly held by the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce and the Arab-Turkish Businessmen’s Association - ARTIAD. He focused on past and current Arab investments in Turkey with a look towards future prospects coming from the GCC.

NOVEMBER 6 | ISTANBUL
The Investment Office’s Necmettin Kaymaz elaborated on the importance of the Belt and Road Initiative and the opportunities it may create in terms of FDI diversification for Turkey at the Bonds, Loans & Sukuk Turkey 2018 conference being held in Istanbul.

NOVEMBER 9 | ISTANBUL
Investment Office President Arda Ermut was a speaker at the 3rd Istanbul PPP Week | Presidential System and Turkish Investment Climate panel held in Istanbul by the Foreign Economic Relations Board (DEİK) and the Istanbul Public-Private Partnership Center of Excellence (İstanbul PPPCoE). More than 40 bureaucrats and academics from over 25 countries were in attendance.

NOVEMBER 11 | MADRID
The Investment Office’s Yasemen Korukçu contributed to the Turkish Working Day at the ChemPlast Expo in Madrid. She provided insight into Turkey’s investment climate and opportunities in the chemicals sector.

NOVEMBER 15 | ISTANBUL
Speaking at the Turkish Capital Markets Summit, Investment Office President Arda Ermut reiterated Turkey’s commitment to continuous reform policies aimed at improving the investment climate. Ermut also highlighted recent achievements that enabled Turkey to jump 17 positions to 43rd place in the World Bank’s Ease of Doing Business 2019 ranking.

NOVEMBER 17 | KUWAIT
Investment Office President Arda Ermut met with a group of CEOs at an exclusive briefing held in Kuwait. The meeting was focused on Turkey’s investment climate and business opportunities, and was also attended by Ayşe Hilal Sayan Koytak, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey in Kuwait.

NOVEMBER 19 | MADRID
Investment Office and the Spanish Wind Energy Association (AEE) jointly held a roundtable meeting in Madrid with Spain’s major energy companies to brief investors about updates on Turkey’s wind energy market. Ahmet İhsan Erdem, Fatih Altunyuva and Zeynel Kılınç of the Investment Office attended the meeting.

The team delivered a presentation on the wind business structure and the upcoming investment opportunities under different renewable energy investment models.

The Investment Office underlined Turkey’s ambitions to reach 16 GW of installed wind capacity with new capacity additions of at least 10 GW by 2027 through YEKA-based and licensed tenders. They emphasized the country’s strong commitment to local and renewable energy resources.

The Spanish companies were also informed about a 1 GW onshore tender announced in the Official Gazette on November 7, for which financial offers will be accepted until March 7, 2019.

NOVEMBER 20 | TOKYO
Yuichi Aoki of the Investment Office presented on Turkey’s investment climate to 130 Japanese business people at a seminar held by Japan’s H.I.S. Group and supported by JETRO and Toyo Kohan. Main topics included the recent political and economic situation and living in Turkey.

Investment Office, the official investment advisory body of Turkey, is a knowledge-center for foreign direct investments and a solution partner to the global business community at all stages of investments. It provides customized guidance and qualified consulting before, during, and after entry into Turkey.