

Press release*Astana, September 10, 2026***KazTransOil improves the efficiency of oil transportation via the Uzen–Atyrau–Samara oil pipeline**

The Uzen–Atyrau–Samara oil pipeline is one of Kazakhstan’s key mainline oil pipelines, transporting crude oil from fields in the country’s western region to domestic refineries, as well as to export destinations and onward to international markets.

The cross-border mainline oil pipeline was commissioned in 1978. The Kazakh section is 1,238 km long, running from the Uzen Head Pumping Station in the Mangystau Region to the crude oil delivery and acceptance point on the state border between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation.

A distinctive feature of the pipeline is its operation in hot-pumping mode. Continuous heating of the crude oil is required due to its specific rheological properties. Mangyshlak crude, for example, has a low sulfur content but a high pour point of up to +30°C, while Buzachi crude is characterized by high viscosity and a pour point of as low as –21°C. Maintaining the required temperature regime along the entire pipeline is therefore essential for reliable and stable transportation.

Between 2021 and 2026, KazTransOil JSC implemented a comprehensive programme to optimize crude oil intake from shippers along the Zhetybai–Uzen–Atyrau section, taking into account the physical, chemical and rheological properties of the incoming crude.

This approach enabled the company to produce crude oil blends with optimized characteristics for transportation both to the Atyrau Refinery and along the export route towards Samara.

As a result, the quality of the crude oil blend delivered to the Atyrau Refinery was improved: density at 20°C decreased from 860 to 850 kg/m³, while sulfur content fell from 0.6% to 0.2%.

The improved quality of the feedstock contributed to more stable operation of the refinery’s process equipment and, consequently, improved the product quality characteristics of the petroleum products manufactured by the refinery.

At the same time, on the Atyrau–Samara export section, the pour point of the crude oil blend was reduced from +20°C to –3°C. This significantly increased the operational resilience of the section, as the lower pour point extended the permissible shutdown period without the risk of losing the crude’s pumpability.

As a result, the risk of abnormal operating conditions and a complete interruption of transportation along the export route was reduced.

Optimizing the crude oil blend composition also enabled a significant reduction in the consumption of natural gas used for crude oil heating. Between 2022 and 2025, natural gas savings amounted to 34.573 million cubic metres, while the total financial benefit exceeded KZT 800 million.

Overall, the technological solutions implemented by KazTransOil JSC have improved the quality of crude oil supplied to the refinery, optimized transportation conditions, strengthened the resilience of the export route, and reduced energy and operating costs.

The work demonstrates a comprehensive approach to improving the efficiency of Kazakhstan’s oil transportation system, supporting the reliability of crude oil supplies while enhancing the flexibility and resilience of the infrastructure in a changing external environment.

KazTransOil JSC is Kazakhstan's national oil pipeline operator and a member of the KazMunayGas group of companies. The Company operates a diversified network of more than 5,200 kilometres of main oil pipelines and provides operation and maintenance services for third-party pipeline systems with a total length exceeding 5,000 kilometres.

***“KazTransOil” JSC
public relations and
internal communications department***