



## Press release

### **GASPOOL and Aequamus set to merge**

Integration of H- and L-gas area to create new cross-quality market area

**Hanover/Leipzig/Kassel/Kiel/Münster/Oldenburg, June 28, 2011.**

GASPOOL and Aequamus are combining their market areas: A new cross-quality market area, which will be known as GASPOOL, will be created as of October 1, 2011. To this end, the companies Aequamus GmbH and GASPOOL Balancing Services GmbH are set to merge. The new GASPOOL market area will connect around 400 gas networks and thus cover approximately half of the German gas market.

The management team of GASPOOL Balancing Services GmbH is changing in anticipation of the merger. Dr. Dirk Bessau became Managing Director on June 1, 2011. Stefan Müller-Reinisch will complete the management team when he joins at a later date. The existing Managing Directors of GASPOOL, Ingrid Peters, Dr. Ulf Kreienbrock, and Ludger Hümbts, will from now on devote themselves to their main responsibilities in their parent companies. The Managing Directors of Aequamus, Stefanie Wetzels and Peter Schmidt, will likewise rejoin their parent companies after the merger.

**WINGAS TRANSPORT GmbH**, a company of the WINGAS Group (Kassel), operates a gas pipeline network throughout Germany. The network company offers its customers ultra-modern, competitive transport services across the company's own trans-regional high-pressure pipeline network, which is around 2,200 kilometers long. Over 100 other network operators in Germany are connected to WINGAS TRANSPORT's gas pipelines. Since the beginning of the 1990s, more than EUR 3 billion has been invested in WINGAS TRANSPORT's pipeline network. Given its Central European location, this infrastructure positions itself as an interface for European natural gas transports.

Based in Leipzig, **ONTRAS - VNG Gastransport GmbH** is a trans-regional natural gas logistics provider in the European pipeline system. ONTRAS operates and markets the capacity of a gas pipeline network that is over 7,200 kilometers in length and has around 500 network connection points. The pipeline system runs through six federal states, from the Baltic coast to the Czech-German border and from the Polish-German border to the Thüringer Wald. There are over 130 downstream network operators.

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Hanover-based **Gasunie Deutschland Transport Services GmbH** is responsible for managing, operating, and extending a 3,200-kilometer long pipeline network in Northern Germany. Because of its geographical location, Gasunie's pipeline network in the Netherlands and in Germany, which measures over 15,000 kilometers in total, has become a gas hub for Northwest Europe. Gasunie Deutschland is a subsidiary of N.V. Nederlandse Gasunie.

**DONG Energy Pipelines GmbH**, which is domiciled in Kiel, is a German subsidiary of the Danish energy supply company DONG Energy A/S, one of the leading energy companies in Northern Europe.

Based in Oldenburg, **EWE NETZ GmbH** is a wholly owned subsidiary of EWE ENERGIE AG. EWE NETZ operates power and gas networks in the Ems-Weser-Elbe region as well as gas networks in parts of Brandenburg and Mecklenburg-West Pomerania. In addition, EWE NETZ is creating powerful telecommunication networks. EWE NETZ's infrastructure features a high standard of supply security and economically efficient operation. The company invested around EUR 160 million in the quality and expansion of its networks in 2010. It normally engages regional companies to carry out the work on the ground. With annual revenue of almost EUR 2 billion and 1,570 employees, the company is one of Germany's largest network operators.

**Erdgas Münster Transport GmbH & Co. KG** (EGMT) is a Münster-based company that operates and markets an around 700-kilometer long pipeline network in Northern Germany. EGMT is a subsidiary of Erdgas Münster GmbH (Münster). The pipeline network is directly connected to the upstream network of Erdgas Münster GmbH; it transports primarily domestically produced gas volumes.