

Press Release

NetConnect Germany reduces its conversion fee and sets its balancing neutrality charge at 0.04 ct/kWh

Ratingen (Germany), 9 February 2015. NetConnect Germany GmbH & Co. KG (NCG) is going to lower its conversion fee from 0.4 €/MWh to 0.3 €/MWh (for both directions of conversion). The conversion neutrality charge, which is levied on physical gas deliveries to the market area, will remain unchanged at 0 ct/kWh. The balancing neutrality charge applied in the NCG market area has been set at 0.04 ct/kWh.

The reduction of the conversion fee down to 0.3 €/MWh reflects the current position of the conversion neutrality account and the projected development of the conversion quantities as well as of the conversion mechanism in general, among other things. NCG's decision to set the fee at 0.3 €/MWh means that the fee continues to stay well below the fee cap of 0.906 €/MWh prescribed by the German federal regulator Bundesnetzagentur. The conversion neutrality charge, which was introduced on 1 October 2012 and may be applied on physical inputs, has again been set at 0 ct/kWh. "As a result of these decisions our customers' costs for their use of the gas quality conversion mechanism will go down even further, which is a positive signal for market participants," says Torsten Frank, a director of NCG.

Following three consecutive periods with a balancing neutrality charge of zero, a balancing neutrality charge of 0.04 ct/kWh will be applied in the validity period from April 2015 to September 2015. The charge may be levied on balancing group managers under section 29 of the German Gas Third-Party Access Regulations (*GasNZV*) and the regulator's administrative ruling on the balancing regime, the so-called "GABi Gas" decision. Its amount has been set based on projections for the development of the system balancing requirements in the NCG market area and the associated balancing costs, a process in which the expected quantity reconciliation payments between the MAM and the network operators in its market area have been taken into account.

NetConnect Germany handles the operational management of the market area cooperation between bayernets GmbH, Fluxys TENP GmbH, Thyssengas GmbH, Open Grid Europe GmbH, GRTgaz Deutschland GmbH and terranets bw GmbH. Its gas market area, which stretches from the North Sea coast down to the Alps, is the largest German market area, with around two thirds of all end-user gas volumes in Germany being transported via the NCG market area.

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	Until 31 March 2015	From 1 April 2015
Conversion fee	0.4 €/MWh	0.3 €/MWh
Conversion neutrality charge	0 ct/kWh	0 ct/kWh
Balancing neutrality charge	0 ct/kWh	0.04 ct/kWh

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