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Germany**

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Press Release

NetConnect Germany to take up trading at ICE Endex for balancing purposes

Ratingen (Germany), 14 April 2015. NetConnect Germany GmbH & Co. KG (NCG) is further diversifying the tools it uses to procure balancing gas and services. Starting today, the company will extend its exchange trading activities for the procurement of balancing gas for the market area's low calorific value gas system to the Dutch TTF gas spot market operated by ICE Endex a subsidiary of Intercontinental Exchange (NYSE: ICE).

In opting for this channel NCG is expanding its portfolio of commercial balancing tools, which currently comprises a range of spot market products traded through PEGAS (Pan-European Gas Cooperation) and the bilateral balancing products NCG procures through its own balancing platform. Balancing gas will be procured via ICE Endex in the event of quality-specific or locational balancing requirements arising within the market area's low calorific value system, with the relevant products being awarded an MOL rank of 2 and procurement within that rank taking place on a "best price" basis.

By using the ICE Endex Dutch TTF gas spot market NCG hopes to achieve an increase in the volumes available to the company. "Taking this step will give us more flexibility when it comes to the buying and selling of the gas quantities we require to balance our market area," says Torsten Frank, a director of NCG.

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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