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Germany**

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Press Release

NetConnect Germany awards contract for the supply of extraterritorial networks via the Netherlands

Ratingen (Germany), 28 September 2016. On 27 September 2016 NetConnect Germany GmbH & Co. KG (NCG) awarded a contract for the supply of certain extraterritorial networks. The gas to be delivered under the full-supply swing contract, which had previously been put out to tender, will be supplied by WINGAS GmbH.

Tenders had been invited for the provision of gas quantities via the Netherlands at the cross-border interconnection point Tegelen located on the German-Dutch border, with delivery to be made in the period from November 2016 up to and including March 2017, as well as at the German-Dutch cross-border interconnection points Dinxperlo and Haanrade, with delivery here to be made from January 2017 up to and including December 2017. Interested suppliers were given the opportunity to submit indicative bids to NCG from 18 May 2016 to 2 June 2016. "Overall we are very pleased with this tender round. We have received competitive bids from a large number of market participants," says Torsten Frank, a director of NCG, in a statement on the tender results.

The objective of the current tender exercise was to secure the possibility of supplier switching at end user level whilst continuing to meet market liberalisation requirements. In choosing this approach NCG ensures that the network areas downstream from the cross-border interconnection points Tegelen, Dinxperlo and Haanrade can be integrated into the NCG market area, and thus enables suppliers to supply customers located in these network areas via the NCG market area. Gas deliveries to end users in the relevant network areas were not part of the scope of the tender.

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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