

## Press Release

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### **Interim measure approved under Balancing Network Code no longer needed from 1 January 2018**

**Ratingen (Germany), 14 December 2017.** The standardised short-term balancing products currently procured bilaterally by NetConnect Germany GmbH & Co. KG (NCG) on its balancing platform will be discontinued with effect from 1 January 2018. The corresponding balancing platform will therefore no longer be needed from that date and the current permission for use of the balancing platform granted by the German national regulatory authority Bundesnetzagentur (Federal Network Agency) until April 2019 will not need to be extended.

Under the provisions of the Regulation establishing a Network Code on Gas Balancing of Transmission Networks (Balancing Network Code) balancing actions must be taken according to a pre-defined order, the so-called “merit order list”, with the use of balancing products ranking at level 3 of that merit order list requiring the approval of the regulator. The German market area managers were given permission to retain their existing balancing platforms as an interim measure in the Federal Network Agency’s so-called “GaBi Gas 2.0” decision, which implemented the Balancing Network Code in Germany.

NCG will continue to use the non-standardised balancing products ranking at level 4 of the merit order (“balancing services”) beyond 1 January 2018 and publish the corresponding tender invitations and award related contracts via a bidding platform. The related operational processes for pre-qualified balancing service providers will remain unchanged.

**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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