
Press Release

Requirements for secure EDIFACT file transmissions successfully implemented

Ratingen (Germany), 9 January 2018. NetConnect Germany GmbH & Co. KG (NCG) has fully met all implementation requirements set out by the German national regulatory authority Bundesnetzagentur (Federal Network Agency) under the “Rules for secure EDIFACT file transmissions” (*Regelungen zum sicheren Austausch von EDIFACT-Übertragungsdateien*, available in German only). In early November 2017 NCG had already rolled out changes to its IT systems to ensure they support the new requirements for digital signatures (RSASSA-PSS) and key encryption (RSAES-OAEP), which has been mandatory since 1 January 2018. Following these changes a number of market partners successfully switched to the new signature and encryption algorithms ahead of the 1 January 2018 deadline after making the corresponding arrangements with NCG.

The “Rules for secure EDIFACT file transmissions” set out new security and protection mechanisms for electronic data interchange between market participants operating in the German energy industry. The main aim of the new rules is to ensure compliance with the increased cryptographic requirements set out by the German Federal Office for Information Security (*BSI – Bundesamt für Sicherheit in der Informationstechnik*) for the transmission channels AS2 and email via SMTP. According to a decision by the Federal Network Agency the requirements were to be implemented in two stages, with some changes taking effect on 1 June 2017 and additional changes entering into force on 1 January 2018. In total, nearly 1,000 of NCG’s market partners have been affected by the changes.

The switching details are agreed individually in each case between NCG and the relevant market partners to ensure a smooth transition for all partners.

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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