

Press Release

Berlin, Ratingen, 22. February 2012

Joint market information of market area managers GASPOOL Balancing Services GmbH and NetConnect Germany GmbH & Co KG

The market area managers of the two German market areas, GASPOOL and NetConnect Germany (NCG), intend to standardize the procurement processes for external balancing energy throughout Germany. Since gas year 2009/2010, the introduction of on-exchange procurement of external balancing energy through the European Energy Exchange (EEX) has ensured in both market areas that a considerable proportion of the balancing energy volume is procured in a standardized way, using market-based mechanisms. To achieve standardization in the bilateral procurement of balancing energy, the market area coordinators have started an intensive communication process. The aim is, in an intermediate step from the third quarter of 2012 onward, to harmonize as far as possible the commodity products offered via the bilateral balancing energy platforms in both market areas and in this way to make it easier for providers of balancing energy throughout Germany to submit bids. In particular, a common standard for deadlines for submitting bids, adjusting prices, and making requests is to be introduced in this regard.

In addition to these measures, which are intended to contribute to rapid standardization of the product landscape for balancing energy products, the market area coordinators are working in close consultation with the pipeline network operators and the German Federal Network Agency on developing a common target model for procuring external balancing energy in the German market areas.

The starting point for developing such a model is to ensure network stability and supply security as well as to meet the need of procuring as much of the required balancing energy volumes as possible on the wholesale market on the basis of standard products. Of particular importance in this regard are the special features of cross-quality market areas and the resulting challenges for the procurement of balancing energy volumes that meet the quality and network requirements exactly.

The development of the target model requires that by the second quarter of 2012 the market area coordinators provide a consistent draft of the planned target model, including the planned implementation steps and deadlines, for market consultation. Publication of the final target model for the procurement of external balancing energy is scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2012.

GASPOOL Balancing Services

Based in Berlin, GASPOOL Balancing Services GmbH is a jointly owned subsidiary of DONG Energy Pipelines GmbH, ERDGAS MÜNSTER Transport GmbH & Co. KG, EWE NETZ GmbH, Gasunie Deutschland Transport Services GmbH, ONTRAS – VNG Gastransport GmbH, and WINGAS TRANSPORT GmbH. The company's purpose is to operate the GASPOOL market area in Germany, which incorporates approx. 350 downstream natural gas transport networks. Due to the integration of the H-Gas Northern Germany market area, Statoil Deutschland Transport GmbH also participates in this market area cooperation. More information at: www.gaspool.de

NetConnect Germany

The company provides customer-friendly services for network operators and transport customers throughout Germany. It is responsible for the operational management of the market area cooperation of bayernets GmbH, Fluxys TENP TSO S.p.A., GRTgaz Deutschland GmbH, GVS Netz GmbH, Open Grid Europe GmbH, and Thyssengas GmbH. NCG's market area – from the North Sea all the way to the Alps – is the largest market area in Germany. More information at: www.net-connect-germany.de

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