

Joint Press Release

Ratingen, 26 August 2009

bayernets, Eni Gas Transport Deutschland S.p.A. (Eni D), E.ON Gastransport, GRTgaz Deutschland and GVS Netz merge their market areas with effect from 1 October 2009

Important course for more competition in the gas market

The network companies *bayernets* GmbH, Eni Gas Transport Deutschland S.p.A. (Eni D), E.ON Gastransport GmbH, GRTgaz Deutschland GmbH and GVS Netz GmbH have agreed to merge their H-gas market areas under the roof of Ratingen-based NetConnect Germany GmbH Co. KG (NCG) with effect from 1 October 2009. The successful conclusion of the negotiations thus creates what is by far the largest market area for gas trading in Germany.

In future, gas can be sold across Germany from the North Sea to the Alps and from the river Oder to the Rhine with only one entry- and one exit-contract. Gas shippers and merchants stand to profit alike. The five partners are thus sending a clear signal in support of competition in the gas market. NCG's virtual trading point (VTP NCG) at which gas can be traded across the new market area both bilaterally (OTC transactions) and on the market (energy exchange) will be significantly upgraded, highlighting the European dimension of NCG's VTP and the significant increase in gas trading across national borders.

The high-pressure pipeline system in the extended market area comprises some 14,800 km and ties into more than 400 other gas grids. The new market area handles more than half of the natural gas shipped across Germany.

NCG's business fields include balancing group management and the provision and operation of the "Virtual Trading Point NCG" and a market area information platform on behalf of its shareholders. With Eni Gas Transport Deutschland S.p.A. (Eni D), GRTgaz Deutschland and GVS Netz joining the group of NCG shareholders, the shareholder structure will change as follows: EGT 35 %, *bayernets* 20 %, Eni D 15 %, GRTgaz D 15 %, GVS 15 %.

Managing Directors of NCG remain Torsten Frank and Klaus Parringer.

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GVS Netz GmbH

is a fully owned subsidiary of GasVersorgung Süddeutschland GmbH. Based in Stuttgart, the company is responsible for the management, operation and expansion of the group's more than 1,900 kilometres of gas transmission pipelines in Baden-Württemberg. Its direct pipeline connection to the European gas network, a modern gas transportation infrastructure and the necessary expertise provide the basis for reliable gas supplies in a liberalised market.

GRTgaz Deutschland GmbH

GRTgaz Deutschland operates the MEGAL pipeline (along with E.ON GT), one of the largest import pipeline systems for Russian natural gas destined for Western Europe. As an Independent Transmission Operator, GRTgaz Deutschland is committed to the aims of energy market liberalisation. GRTgaz Deutschland allows its customers non-discriminatory, effective and fair access to its gas transmission system.

E.ON Gastransport GmbH

a subsidiary of Essen-based E.ON Ruhrgas AG, is Germany's leading gas transmission company. With its ultramodern, efficient system of more than 11,600 km of pipeline and comprehensive technical services, E.ON Gastransport GmbH offers and arranges innovative, forward-looking gas transportation solutions.

Eni Gas Transport Deutschland S.p.A. (Eni D)

is a fully owned subsidiary of Eni S.p.A., which started its gas transportation operations in Germany in November 2005. The business activities of the Düsseldorf-based subsidiary are essentially focused on providing transportation services on the TENP pipeline system, which extends from Bocholtz on the Dutch border and Eynatten on the Belgian border to the Swiss border near Wallbach. Eni D offers access to its pipeline system and provides gas transportation services on a transparent and non-discriminatory basis as required by the market.

bayernets GmbH

is the independent network company of Bayerngas GmbH. Based in Munich, it is responsible for ensuring efficient and non-discriminatory access to its high-pressure network comprising some 1,300 kilometres of gas pipelines. bayernets offers maximum security and quality of supply along with transportation services for shippers in line with market needs.