

Joint Press Release

Essen, 8. October 2009

Extended market area cooperation is off to a successful start

The extended market cooperation between the network companies bayernets GmbH, Eni Gas Transport Deutschland S.p.A., E.ON Gastransport GmbH, GRTgaz Deutschland GmbH and GVS Netz GmbH under the roof of NetConnect Germany GmbH & Co. KG (NCG) got off to a successful start on 1 October 2009.

The possibility to market natural gas 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 has boosted trading volumes at NCG's virtual trading point (VTP). Both the number of active traders and the volumes traded increased significantly on 1 October 2009 compared with 30 September 2009.

"Gas shippers and traders alike stand to benefit from the extended market area and the larger trading volumes," said NCG Managing Directors Torsten Frank and Klaus Parringer, commenting on the start of the market area cooperation. "This shows that competition in the gas market is working and gaining momentum. The scope of data to be exchanged between the market players and NCG for what are now far more than 300 balancing group contracts has increased substantially. Since the launch of the cooperation, some 10,000 data sets from well in excess of 400 exit network operators are received, processed and passed on every day."

The merger has created by far the largest natural gas market area in Germany. The transmission networks of the cooperation partners in the enlarged market area have a combined total length of some 14,800 km. NCG's business areas encompass balancing group management, the provision and operation of the Virtual Trading Point, which includes a market area platform, and the procurement of control energy on behalf of the cooperation partners.

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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

operates the MEGAL pipeline, one of the largest import pipeline systems for Russian natural gas destined for Western Europe, together with E.ON Gastransport. As an independent network operator, GRTgaz Deutschland has established a non-discriminatory, effective and fair process for customers wishing to access its natural 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.