

Press Release

NetConnect Germany charges no reconciliation penalties for the first time

Ratingen (Germany), 14 March 2016. For the first time since the incentive mechanism for timely reconciliation invoicing was introduced, NetConnect Germany GmbH & Co. KG (NCG) has not charged any penalties to network operators. All reconciliation quantity notices due for the supply period September 2015 have been submitted to NCG before the applicable deadlines. In the past NCG has had to impose penalties on network operators each month due to non-compliance with the process for submission of reconciliation quantity notices, with the number of network operators affected reaching high double figures in some instances.

Under the incentive mechanism network operators incur a penalty if they fail to submit their reconciliation quantity notices to the market area manager on time and if this continues to be the case two months and one business day after the relevant due date. The resulting penalty payments have to be borne by the network operators affected and are recorded in the balancing neutrality account (until supply period September 2015) respectively in the SLP balancing neutrality account (as of supply period October 2015) by the market area manager. Penalties for reconciliation quantity notices for exit points which are equipped with a supply meter installation which records hourly consumption (so-called "RLM" customers) are for the last time charged for the supply period September 2015.

When the incentive mechanism was introduced on 1 October 2014 NCG had hoped that this would improve the reliability and timeliness of data provision by the network operators. "We are delighted that we have reached a situation where we have not had to charge any penalties for the first time. The timeliness of data provision by the network operators has improved continuously. This shows that the incentives are effective and that the network operators have worked to improve their processes, which is a very welcome development from our point of view," comments Torsten Frank, a director of NCG.

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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