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Germany**

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Press Release

NetConnect Germany to increase transparency of its published information on H-/L- gas quality conversion

Ratingen (Germany), 29 September 2016. From 1 October 2016, NetConnect Germany GmbH & Co. KG (NCG) will publish more extensive data on the commercial conversion activities in its market area. In addition to publishing its final commercial conversion data NCG will now also publish preliminary information on its commercial conversion measures, with the additional data to be provided each day for the preceding day.

Under the so-called “KONNI Gas” ruling, i.e. the German federal regulator Bundesnetzagentur's administrative decision which introduced the gas quality conversion mechanism for multi-quality market areas, NCG has an obligation to publish information on the quantities and prices relating to the commercial measures it takes to physically convert gas from one gas quality to another and to do so once all relevant final data for a billing month is available. Information on commercial conversion activities has therefore only been published after the allocation clearing deadlines have expired. “Our decision to also publish the preliminary data has been taken in response to feedback we have received from market participants. Publishing this data allows us to provide preliminary information to the market in a timely manner and thereby ensure greater transparency. We hope this will help market participants to better keep track of the conversion developments in our market area,” says NCG director Torsten Frank in a statement on the new initiative.

Besides publishing the above additional information NCG will also start disclosing the preliminary balances of its conversion neutrality account. Up until now these have also only been published once the relevant final data was available.

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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