

Joint Press Release

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Market area cooperation between bayernets, Eni Gas Transport Deutschland, E.ON Gastransport , GRTgaz Deutschland und GVS Netz intended

Aiming to create a joint Germany wide H-Gas market area, the above mentioned network operators check a market area cooperation under the umbrella of NetConnect Germany based in Ratingen. For this purpose, the founders have signed a memorandum of understanding with three network operators: Eni Gas Transport Deutschland S.p.A., GVS Netz GmbH and GRTgaz Deutschland GmbH.

This cooperation is to create an enlarged market area with a gas transmission system that will comprise some 14,800 kilometres of pipeline and handle the largest part of all H-gas transported in Germany. This market area involves more than 400 gas supply networks and offers an intensification of competition and increased liquidity at NCG virtual trading point

NetConnect Germany's business areas include balancing group management and the provision and operation of NCG virtual trading point and an information platform.

"NetConnect Germany stands for optimised processes, efficient data management and transparent information. With this envisaged extension we are sending a clear signal for forward-looking developments on the gas market and for easier network access," the cooperation partners said. The enlargement of the company is subject to approval by the Federal Cartel Office.

The aim of the enlarged group of shareholders of NetConnect Germany is to gain further partners or shareholders.

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bayernets GmbH

is the network company of Bayerngas GmbH based in Munich. It is responsible for ensuring efficient and non-discriminatory access to its high-pressure system of around 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.

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.

GVS Netz GmbH

Stuttgart-based GVS Netz GmbH, a fully owned subsidiary of Gasversorgung Süddeutschland GmbH, is responsible for the management, operation and expansion of the group's more than 1,900 kilometres of transmission pipelines in Baden-Württemberg. The direct connection with the European gas network and a modern transport infrastructure, combined with the appropriate technical expertise, will provide the basis for reliable supply in a liberalized market.

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

is a company 100% owned by Eni S.p.A. that started its activity as Transmission System Operator on November 2005. Eni operations are carried out through its German branch based in Düsseldorf. The primary activity of Eni D is the provision of gas transportation services on the TENP pipeline system that runs from Bocholtz, at the Dutch border and Eynatten at Belgian Border to the Swiss border, close to Wallbach. Eni D offers transparent and non-discriminating access to its network and transportation services in line with market requests.

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.