

Improving security of supply – transmission system operators release 2013 gas network development plan

- **€2.2bn to go into system upgrades by 2023**
- **Up for discussion – market area conversion as production of low cv gas drops**

Berlin, March 18, 2014

By 2023, German gas transmission system operators (TSOs) will invest some €2.2bn into upgrading the country's gas infrastructure. In the words of Inga Posch, managing director of FNB Gas, the association of German gas TSOs, "this is a major commitment to improving the security of supply on the part of Germany's operators". The second national gas network development plan (NDP Gas) published today lists a total of 27 projects confirmed by the Bundesnetzagentur (BNetzA), the national regulatory agency, for the next ten years. This will boost installed nation-wide compressor capacity by a total of 344 megawatts. At the same time, 522 km of new high-pressure pipelines will be laid. The document can be accessed on the FNB Gas website at www.fnb-gas.de.

„A particular challenge TSOs have to meet in future is the significant drop we are seeing in the domestic production of low cv gas" Posch adds. To make things worse, much less low cv gas will be available for import from the Netherlands in the next few years. A possible strategy to ensure long-term gas supplies in Germany and Europe discussed in the NDP 2013 for the first time is therefore to convert areas now using low cv gas to high cv gas. "The NDP 2013 thus initiates an intensive public debate with market partners and the regulatory agency on what we need to do", Posch concludes.

The general planning framework for the NDP 2013 has been closely coordinated with the national regulatory agency BNetzA and market participants such as gas traders, power station and storage operators, with the accent on consistent planning and transmission system upgrades as part of the Energiewende. Of particular importance was the modification request made by the BNetzA on Dec. 18, 2013 which led to additional investments being included in the NDP 2013.

TSOs are now assessing consultations which dealt with the NDP 2014 and ended on March 7, with results to be communicated to the BNetzA on April 1, 2014. At the same time, operators are now beginning to chart scenarios and frameworks for the NDP 2015.

PRESS RELEASE



Vereinigung der Fernleitungsnetzbetreiber Gas e.V. (FNB Gas) is the association of German transmission system operators, i.e. the operators of the major supra-regional and cross-border gas pipelines. The Association was established at the end of 2012 and has operated an office in Berlin since April 2013. One main focus of the Association's activities is the Network Development Plan Gas, which has been drawn up annually by the transmission system operators since 2012. Furthermore, the Association represents its members as point of contact for politicians, media and the public.

PRESS CONTACT:

Jeremias Pressl
Vereinigung der Fernleitungsnetzbetreiber Gas e.V.
Georgenstraße 23
10117 Berlin

Phone: +49 30 9210 23513
Fax: +49 30 9210 23543
Email: info@fnb.gas.de
www.fnb-gas.de