

Press Release

Ensuring a secure gas supply: *bayernets* GmbH celebrates the commissioning of the MONACO natural gas pipeline

Munich, 5 April 2019. – Today, together with the Bavarian Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy Hubert Aiwanger, *bayernets* GmbH celebrated the commissioning of the MONACO natural gas pipeline in the community of Finsing (in the Erding district). The MONACO pipeline has been in operation since December 2018 and runs from the German-Austrian border in Burghausen to Finsing near Munich. It is one of the largest pipeline construction projects in the gas industry in southern Germany.

“We want an overall concept for a secure, affordable and sustainable energy supply. Natural gas plays a significant role in this concept. In order to balance out the volatility, we need regional and climate-friendly gas power stations in addition to developing renewable energy. These power stations must be able to rely on a secure supply of natural gas. Among other things, the MONACO pipeline makes an important contribution to achieving this security of supply to Bavaria”, said Bavaria’s Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy Hubert Aiwanger.

“We are very proud as a company that we could successfully commission the MONACO natural gas pipeline at the end of last year as planned. With the MONACO pipeline we increase the security of supply for Bavaria and the whole South German region. MONACO makes a significant contribution to meeting increasing demand for gas shipping capacity in Germany and Europe by connecting national and international transmission systems”, explained Dr. Matthias Jenn, Managing Director of *bayernets* GmbH.

The underground pipeline has a total length of approx. 87 kilometres, a diameter of 1.2 metres and leads through the districts of Altötting, Mühldorf am Inn and Erding in the administrative region of Upper Bavaria. The construction project means that the transmission system operator *bayernets* has invested more than 200 million euros in total in the Bavarian gas infrastructure. More information (in German) on the MONACO pipeline is available at <http://monaco.bayernets.de>.

As a transmission system operator *bayernets* is playing an active role in developing the natural gas network in Germany to be in line with future demand. As a measure incorporated in the Network Development Plan Gas, the MONACO pipeline increases the security of supply for utility companies, regional suppliers, trade and industry in the *bayernets* network area.

The biggest technical challenges posed by the construction works were laying approx. 1,200 metres of pipeline in wet areas of the rivers Sempt and Schwillach in the Erding district, tunneling approx. 700 metres under the Inn and Innwerkkanal near Kraiburg am Inn in the district of Mühldorf am Inn, crossing the Alz and Alzkanal in the district of Altötting as well as pipeline installation in the area of Mörntal in the districts of Altötting and Mühldorf am Inn, also with an approximate length of 700 metres.

Along the pipeline route, renaturalisation works are planned to take place during the first half of 2019. Renaturalisation means that unrestricted agricultural use of the land taken for the construction works will be ensured. In addition to this, roads and tracks will be restored in close consultation with the responsible communities and transport authorities.

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About *bayernets* GmbH

Committed to protecting our environment *bayernets* GmbH, Munich, supplies natural gas through a 1,500 km long high-pressure pipeline in Bavaria. With a network area of 32,000 square kilometres and an average pipeline diameter of DN 500, the company is one of the largest gas pipeline operators in Germany. *bayernets* has 47 downstream grid operators, 12 of these connected directly with its pipeline system.

bayernets operates in the east of Bavaria with its own import capacities at the important cross-border point Burghausen/Überacker in the European gas network system and provides a secure gas supply in the south to Tyrol via Kiefersfelden and Pfronten. As a strong partner in the gas market area cooperation NetConnect Germany, *bayernets* connects the German gas transmission system in the south east through entry and exit points to the Austrian pipeline system. In this way *bayernets* offers its shippers a gate to the East European gas market.

The Munich company is an active market partner and is playing a significant part in the future development of a national and European gas pipeline infrastructure, among other things in its role in the Vereinigung der Fernleitungsnetzbetreiber Gas e.V. (FNB Gas) and in the European Network of Transmission System Operators (ENTSO-G).