

Joint press release

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Thyssengas intends to accede to NetConnect Germany market territory cooperation

Thyssengas GmbH intends to accede shortly to NetConnect Germany market territory cooperation. An agreement to this effect has been signed by Thyssengas and the shareholders of NetConnect Germany - **bayernets** GmbH, GRTgaz Deutschland GmbH and Open Grid Europe GmbH.

The pipelines gas operators plan to contribute the market territories Thyssengas H-Gas, Thyssengas L-Gas and Open Grid Europe L-Gas to the market territory cooperation. This step is taken in preparation of meeting the requirements of the new gas network access regulation. This provides for a reduction to three market territories in 2011.

With Open Grid Europe, bayernets and GRTgaz Deutschland three leading companies of the German natural gas shipping market already cooperate as shareholders within NetConnect Germany. With the accession of Thyssengas and the integration of additional market territories, NetConnect Germany is joined by another competent partner and the German gas market benefits from higher liquidity. The high-pressure pipeline system in Germany's largest market territory would then have a total length of approx. 20,000 kilometres and would connect over 500 (downstream) gas networks. Apart from the aforementioned companies, ENI Transport Deutschland S.p.A. and GVS Netz GmbH are also part of the market territory cooperation by way of service relationships.

The business areas of NCG are the performance of balancing group management, the procurement and settlement of balancing energy as well as the provision and operation of the "virtual trading point NCG" and a market territory information platform on behalf of its shareholders.

The accession of Thyssengas to NetConnect Germany is still subject to antitrust approval.

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