



Press release

GASPOOL approved by cartel office

Application filed for entry into Trade Register

Hannover/Leipzig/Kassel/Emden/Kiel, 23 June 2009. The new market area cooperation project GASPOOL has cleared another hurdle. The plan by transport network operators Gasunie Deutschland, ONTRAS – VNG Gastransport, WINGAS TRANSPORT and DONG Energy Pipelines to merge their market areas has been designated unobjectionable by the German Federal Cartel Office. “It does not meet the conditions for prohibition as stipulated in § 36 (1) of the Act against Restraints on Competition (GWB) and may therefore be implemented”, the ruling by the cartel office stated.

The company GASPOOL will be based in Berlin. StatoilHydro Deutschland will also participate in the market area cooperation. The pipeline operators from Hanover, Leipzig, Kassel, Emden and Kiel had already announced their intention to merge their existing, separate market areas back in March. This will now create a transport and trading area for natural gas that includes more the 300 networks virtually all over Germany. The cooperation makes it easier to transport gas across and beyond ownership lines, and gives competition in the German and European gas market a crucial boost.

WINGAS TRANSPORT GmbH & Co. KG operates a national gas pipeline network. It offers its customers state-of-the-art, competitive transport services using a high-pressure pipeline network more than 2,000 km long which covers the whole of Germany and includes nine compressor stations. More than 100 other network operators are connected to the WINGAS TRANSPORT pipeline network in Germany. More than 3 billion euros have been invested in this pipeline network overall since 1990. This infrastructure is positioned at the heart of Europe as the interface of European natural gas transportation.

ONTRAS – VNG Gastransport GmbH is a trans-regional gas pipeline operator in the European grid system based in Leipzig. ONTRAS operates a high-pressure pipeline network, which is over 7,000 km long and has around 500 interconnection points, and markets its capacities. The pipeline system runs through six federal states in Germany from the Baltic Sea coast to the German-Polish border and from the German-Polish border to the Thuringian Forest. It cooperates with over 130 downstream network operators.

Presse contacts:

WINGAS TRANSPORT

Nicholas Neu
Phone: +49 561 301-3301
Fax: +49 561 301-1321
presse@wingas-transport.de

ONTRAS – VNG Gastransport

Dr. Ralf Borschinsky
Phone: +49 341 443-2111
Fax: +49 341 443-2004
ralf.borschinsky@ontras.com

Gasunie Deutschland

Dr. Philipp von Bergmann-Korn
Phone: +49 511 640607-2146
Fax: +49 511 640607-2554
philipp.bergmann-korn
@gasunie.de

DONG Energy Pipelines

Madeleine Gräfin zu Eulenburg
Phone: +49 431 710389-21
Fax: +49 431 710389-20
madeleine.eulenburg
@dongpipelines.de

StatoilHydro Deutschland

Kerstin Dirks
Phone: +49 4921 58919-12
Fax: +49 4921 58919-99
kdir@statoilhydro.com

Gasunie Deutschland Transport Services GmbH based in Hannover is responsible for the management, operation and development of a long-distance pipeline grid in North Germany, which is about 3,100 kilometers long. Because of its geographical position, the Gasunie pipeline network in the Netherlands and in Germany, which is more than 15,000 kilometers long in total, acts as the 'gas roundabout' of northwest Europe. Gasunie Deutschland is a subsidiary of N.V. Nederlandse Gasunie.

DONG Energy Pipelines GmbH based in Kiel is a German subsidiary of the Danish energy company DONG Energy A/S, one of the leading energy providers in northern Europe. As a trans-regional gas pipeline network operator, DONG Energy Pipelines offers its customers gas transport capacities from Ellund on the Danish-German border through its high-pressure gas pipeline network.

StatoilHydro Deutschland GmbH based in Emden is a 100% subsidiary of the Norwegian energy provider StatoilHydro ASA. With 30,000 employees and branches in over 40 countries, StatoilHydro is one of the biggest crude oil exporters in the world and one of the most prominent natural gas producers on the European gas market. Network operator StatoilHydro Deutschland GmbH provides its customers with capacities for transporting natural gas. Its transport network is 341 kilometers long and runs from Dornum via Etzel to Steinitz in Saxony Anhalt.