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## Press Release

Ratingen, 4 April 2011

### **NetConnect Germany combines H-gas and L-gas in largest market area**

Punctually on 1 April, the Open Grid Europe L-Gas, Thyssengas H-Gas and Thyssengas L-Gas market areas were merged with the NetConnect Germany (NCG) market area. As a result of this step, the requirements of the new Gas Network Access Code have been met on time. The Code envisages the number of market areas being reduced to three no later than 1 April 2011. At the same time, the first cross-quality market area in Germany has been launched.

bayernets, ENI Gastransport Deutschland, GRTgaz Deutschland, GVS Netz, Open Grid Europe and Thyssengas worked together to prepare this step. The German gas market has gained further liquidity as a result. The requirements of the Gas Network Access Code were successfully fulfilled in a very ambitious and tight timetable.

The high-pressure network in Germany's largest market area now has a total length of approx. 20,000 km and unites almost 500 gas distribution networks. NCG's business areas cover balancing group management, procurement and billing of balancing and control energy as well as provision and operation of the NCG virtual trading point including a market area information platform.

#### **NetConnect Germany**

The company offers a range of products and customer-friendly services for network operators and shippers across different market areas throughout Germany and ensures operations management for market area cooperation between various partners. Well over 50 % of the gas moved across Germany is shipped through NCG's market area, which stretches from the North Sea coast down to the Alps.

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