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Press release

Gas Connect Austria: new structures at the Trans Austria Gas pipeline (TAG)

TAG GmbH was recently certified as an independent transmission system operator (ITO) by E-Control on the basis of the EU's Third Energy Package. This requires TAG GmbH to operate the TAG pipeline independently in future and therefore also means changes at Gas Connect Austria.

Gas Connect Austria raises stake in TAG GmbH

In July of this year, a decision was adopted to certify TAG GmbH as an independent transmission operator, successfully completing the unbundling of the Austrian TSO as required by the EU. This decision transfers civil-law ownership of the TAG pipeline from Gas Connect Austria to TAG GmbH and requires the latter to maintain and operate the pipeline independently in future. While the TAG pipeline was previously maintained by Gas Connect Austria, TAG GmbH was already the beneficial owner and responsible, inter alia, for expanding the system, marketing transportation rights and collecting transportation fees on the TAG system. In return for contributing the pipeline and the related operations, Gas Connect Austria is raising its existing stake in TAG GmbH from 11% to 15.5%, while the Italian shareholder CDP GAS Srl, a wholly owned subsidiary of CDP Group, is reducing its existing stake in TAG GmbH from 89% to 84.5%. The TAG pipeline is one of the most important lines both for Austria's supply of natural gas and for transit to Italy, Slovenia and Croatia.

Under the new structure, transportation capacity utilisation on the TAG system will remain stable and the pipeline will continue to ensure a reliable supply of natural gas.

Background information:

Gas Connect Austria GmbH

Gas Connect Austria is a wholly owned subsidiary of OMV. As well as marketing transportation capacity at home and abroad, Gas Connect Austria ensures the smooth, secure operation of some 930 kilometres of high-pressure natural gas pipelines. As Austria's transmission and distribution system operator, Gas Connect Austria plays a key part in Austrian and European gas supplies. The existing infrastructure is continually reviewed, maintained and kept in state-of-the-art condition so as to ensure a long-term supply of gas. Based on market requirements, Gas Connect Austria develops a comprehensive range of logistics services for market participants in Austria and abroad. As market area manager, Gas Connect Austria is responsible for the coordinated transportation of natural gas in Austria.

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