

Vienna, 29 October 2012

## Press release

### Gas Connect Austria sells part of its interest in AGGM

**Gas Connect Austria has agreed to dispose of 45% of the shares in AGGM Austrian Gas Grid Management AG (AGGM), a Gas Connect subsidiary, to provincial distribution companies EVN Netz GmbH, OÖ. Ferngas Netz GmbH and Gasnetz Steiermark GmbH. Each of the buyers will take a 15% stake in AGGM. The deal will strengthen Gas Connect Austria and AGGM's relations with Grid Level 1 distribution companies.**

AGGM was set up in 2002 in line with the requirements of the Natural Gas Act, and became manager of the Eastern control area the following year. Its role was transformed following enactment of the Natural Gas Act 2011. In line with the provisions of the Act, the Grid Level 1 operators – EVN Netz, OÖ. Ferngas Netz, Gasnetz Steiermark and Gas Connect Austria – nominated AGGM as the distribution area manager for the Eastern market area. Its principal responsibilities include network access and capacity management, gas flow control and balancing energy management, as well as long-term planning for development of the gas network. This year the scope of its planning activities was extended to cover the whole of Austria. This will enable the company to generate synergies in all market areas, to the benefit of the entire Austria market. AGGM operates independently from all other market participants as regards its organisational structures and decision-making powers, and is committed to maximising transparency in all of its operations. “Our goals are to meet the highest standards in our role as the independent distribution area manager in the Eastern market area and to enhance security of supply throughout Austria,” explained AGGM's CEO Erich Juranek.

The sale of part of the interest, which is subject to approval by the competition authorities, highlights Gas Connect Austria's commitment to forging partnerships within the industry. “The new ownership structure will bolster AGGM's long-standing and fruitful links with the distribution system operators still further. We are looking forward to working with them to overcome the challenges presented by the new market model,” said AGGM Supervisory Board chairman Stefan Wagenhofer.

Foto (v.l.n.r.):

Ing. Mag. Stefan Wagenhofer, GF Gas Connect Austria GmbH  
Dr. Gerhard Siegl, Prokurist Gas Connect Austria GmbH  
KR Ing. Dr. Johann Grünberger, GF OÖ Ferngas Netz GmbH  
DI Mag. Dr. Günther Stimmeder, GF OÖ Ferngas Netz GmbH  
Dipl. Ing. Johannes Reindl, GF EVN Netz GmbH  
Dipl. Ing. Robert Essbüchl, GF EVN Netz GmbH  
DI (FH) Manfred Pachernegg, GF Gasnetz Steiermark GmbH  
Mag. Regina Marak-Huber, Prokuristin Gasnetz Steiermark GmbH  
Background information

### **Gas Connect Austria GmbH**

Gas Connect Austria is a wholly owned subsidiary of OMV Gas & Power GmbH. The company, with a head count of about 380, is the independent transmission operator (ITO) that runs Austria's 2,000-kilometre high-pressure gas pipeline network, which has a marketed capacity of 101 billion cubic metres/year. It operates the physical hub in Baumgarten an der March, near the Slovak border, which is the central crossroads of the Austrian gas grid. The Baumgarten hub receives incoming gas supplies, mostly from Russia, and dispatches them to domestic distribution networks, and to Croatia, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy and Slovenia. As a key link in Europe's interconnected gas grid, Gas Connect plays a crucial part in maintaining supply security for Austria and the EU as a whole. About one-third of all Russian exports to Western Europe are handled by the Baumgarten hub. The capacity of Austria's gas infrastructure is steadily being expanded to underpin security of supply.

### **AGGM Austrian Gas Grid Management AG**

AGGM Austrian Gas Grid Management AG became the manager of all three of Austria's market areas (the Eastern market area, Tyrol and Vorarlberg) on 1 October 2012, and is now responsible for the distribution grids across the country. Following the liberalisation of the Austrian gas market in autumn 2002, AGGM was responsible for the distribution grids in the Eastern control area in its role as control area manager. The new Gas Market Model Ordinance 2012 issued by E-Control gives AGGM the vital function of distribution area manager. Its responsibilities include network access and capacity management, gas flow control and optimisation, the procurement of control and balancing energy, infrastructure planning for the distribution grid, supply security and crisis management. AGGM also manages domestic gas transportation capacity in collaboration with the system operators and draws up long-term plans aimed at eliminating existing and anticipated congestion.

### **Contact**

#### **Gas Connect Austria GmbH**

Communications Department

Tel.: +43 (0)1 27500 ext. 88052

Email: [communications@gasconnect.at](mailto:communications@gasconnect.at)

[www.gasconnect.at](http://www.gasconnect.at)