

Vienna, 31 January 2013

Press release

Gas Connect Austria accepts award on behalf of PRISMA capacity platform

Gas Connect Austria accepted the Project of the Year Award on behalf of the PRISMA capacity platform at the European Gas Conference yesterday in Vienna. PRISMA is a joint capacity platform created by a line-up of European transmission system operators (TSOs). The European Gas Conference Awards are presented annually.

Gas Connect Austria's statutory duties as a market area manager include coordinating the creation and operation of an online capacity platform. The legislation that governs its activities envisaged a purely Austrian website. However, Gas Connect Austria soon realised that confining the platform to the Austrian market would mean missing out on potential efficiency gains.

"We regularly take part in industry activities at European level, and see ourselves as one of the driving forces behind an increasing cooperation and coordination within the European gas market. That's why we were very keen to generate synergies for market players across Europe by helping to set up this new capacity booking platform. We are proud to have been involved in establishing it, along with the other Austrian TSOs, in line with our coordinating function as the market area manager. And this has given our country a pioneering role, as well," said Gas Connect Austria Managing Director Harald Stindl.

The PRISMA European Capacity Platform, formed as a company by Gas Connect Austria and 18 other TSOs from seven EU member states at the start of December 2012, is due to go live in April. It will make a major contribution towards optimising gas flows in and via Austria, thereby increasing security of supply, as well as enhancing the quality of the services offered to market participants.

In its capacity as market area manager Gas Connect Austria successfully introduced the country's new gas market model at the start of 2013. Masterminding the construction and operation of a joint online capacity platform is a logical next step in this process.

Photo:

Gas Connect Austria CEO Dr. Harald Stindl happily accepts the Project of the Year Award.

From left to right:

Hans Peter Floren, Executive Board Member OMV

Harald Stindl, CEO Gas Connect Austria

Monika Simoes, The Energy Exchange

Paul van Gelder, CEO Gasunie

Background information

Gas Connect Austria GmbH

Gas Connect Austria is a wholly owned subsidiary of OMV Gas & Power GmbH. It is the country's largest transmission system operator, with around 400 employees. Besides marketing transport capacity at home and abroad, the company maintains smooth and reliable operation of Austria's 2,000-km high-pressure gas pipeline network. It operates the physical hub in Baumgarten an der March, near the Slovak border, which is the central crossroads of the Austrian transmission network. The Baumgarten station is Austria's largest gas import and reception point, and one of Central Europe's most important gas hubs. It dispatches incoming gas supplies to domestic distribution networks, and to Croatia, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy and Slovenia. Existing gas infrastructure is regularly inspected, maintained and modernised in order to safeguard long-term security of supply. Gas Connect Austria offers a comprehensive range of logistics services tailored to the requirements of domestic and foreign market participants. In its role as the market area manager, the company is responsible for coordinating natural gas transportation in Austria's Eastern market area.

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