



Press Release

Trading Region Upgrade service has received positive response from the market

Vienna / Prague, 19 July 2018: The new Trading Region Upgrade (TRU) service, connecting the Austrian and the Czech gas markets, has received positive response from the market. Approximately 80% of the total offered TRU capacity from the Czech Republic to Austria (90,000 kWh/h/a) was sold during the annual auction in July. Market participants also expressed a strong interest in purchasing TRU for shorter durations (quarter, month, day). A decision whether to offer the remaining TRU quantity at later short-term auctions will be taken soon. The main aim of the TRU service is to simplify transaction procedures and reduce transaction costs.

The new specially designed service was offered as a yearly product by the Austrian and the Czech Gas Transmission System Operators Gas Connect Austria and NET4GAS through auctions in the period 2 – 16 July 2018. For the first time, their customers had the opportunity to bid for their gas to be shipped from Austria to the Czech Republic and vice versa with a single contract. With this, the two companies are also implementing in practice of the European Union's target to bring markets together in an easy and cost-efficient way.

Both Transmission System Operators offer the TRU service individually. Cross-border transactions from Austria to the Czech gas market are provided by Gas Connect Austria, transactions from the Czech Republic to the Austrian gas market by NET4GAS.

The TRU service is offered within a one-year pilot phase after which the product will be evaluated.

For further details, please contact the Transmission System Operators directly or visit their websites: www.net4gas.cz and www.gasconnect.at

Gas Connect Austria GmbH

Gas Connect Austria operates a modern, high-performance high-pressure gas pipeline network with connections to Germany, Slovakia, Slovenia and Hungary and storage facilities. As well as operating transmission pipelines, the company is also responsible for an important part of the Austrian distribution network. Its core business is marketing gas transportation capacity at cross-border interconnection points, and providing capacity for domestic natural gas supply in Austria. As a transmission- and distribution system operator, Gas Connect Austria plays an important part both in the Austrian and European gas supply network. 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.

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NET4GAS, s.r.o.

NET4GAS holds an exclusive gas Transmission System Operator (TSO) licence in the Czech Republic, providing efficient, safe and reliable gas transmission services for its customers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The company secures the international transit of natural gas across the Czech Republic, domestic transmission to partners in the Czech Republic and associated commercial and technical services. NET4GAS transports around 45 billion m³ of natural gas per year and operates more than 3,800 km of pipelines, three border transfer stations, four compressor stations, and nearly a hundred transfer stations at the interface with domestic gas distribution. The company is a member of the Czech Gas Association, the international organisations ENTSOG, GIE, EASEE-gas, and the IGU and Marcogaz working groups. NET4GAS has more than 500 employees.

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