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Press release

Gas Connect Austria joins new European transportation capacity platform

Gas Connect Austria and Austrian transmission system operators (TSOs) BOG GmbH and TAG GmbH, as well as 16 other TSOs from seven countries, have established a new European online platform to auction natural gas transportation capacity. The initiative represents a major step towards the integrated European gas market envisaged by the third energy package. The agreement was signed in Leipzig on 4 December. The new trading platform, to be registered as PRISMA European Capacity Platform GmbH with effect from 1 January 2013, is scheduled to go live on 1 April 2013.

Gas Connect Austria has set up the joint venture that will operate the shared capacity platform in conjunction with 18 other TSOs from Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands. For the first time, customers will be able to book capacities at European network points via a single platform. This will offer a range of capacity products, and auctions based on the new Network Code on Capacity Allocation Mechanisms (NC CAM), as well as being linked to the participating companies' back-end systems. In future, the platform will be extended to support secondary capacity marketing.

The new European capacity platform has grown from another TSO joint venture, Leipzig-based Trac-X Transport Capacity Exchange GmbH. By building on existing structures and pooling their vast expertise, the participating companies have developed a cost-effective solution that lays firm foundations for capacity marketing at European level.

Foto (from left to right):

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Background information

Gas Connect Austria GmbH

Gas Connect Austria is the country's largest transmission system operator, with around 400 employees. Besides marketing transport capacity in Austria and abroad – a total of 101 billion cubic metres (bn cu m) in 2011 – the company maintains the smooth and reliable operation of Austria's 2,000 kilometre 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. Baumgarten 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. 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. The capacity of Austria's gas infrastructure is steadily being expanded to underpin security of supply. Gas Connect Austria is a wholly owned subsidiary of OMV Gas & Power GmbH.

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