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Press release

Gas transport capacity auction debut a success

PRISMA European online gas transport capacity trading platform successfully launched on 1 April

Gas Connect Austria (GCA) as co-founder and shareholder had a good initial trading day on the PRISMA European gas transport capacity platform.

The first online auction on PRISMA was held on schedule on 1 April. PRISMA enables users to book gas transport capacity at cross-border interconnection points around Europe via a central platform. Capacity at all GCA cross-border entry-exit points in the Market Area East is now being auctioned on PRISMA. As a first step, day ahead capacity was marketed via the site on 1 April.

“Our capacity products met with strong buyer interest. We will extend the range of products to monthly, quarterly and annual contracts,” said Gas Connect Austria Managing Director Harald Stindl. Monthly reservations will be introduced in mid-April. The dates of the auctions are posted in the auction calendar on the PRISMA website www.prisma-capacity.eu.

Leipzig based Prisma European Capacity Platform GmbH was launched last December as a joint venture between 19 European transmission system operators (TSOs) from Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands. Since then the joint venture partners have put a major effort into implementing the software solution. The results are impressive. To date over 250 European companies and more than 600 users have registered with PRISMA. The new platform links the gas markets of the countries concerned, unlocking synergies for market participants all over Europe.

In its role as market area manager, Gas Connect Austria made a key contribution to the successful launch of a new Austrian gas market model at the start of this year. The PRISMA start-up marks a big advance towards integrating European gas markets.

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 Slo-

vak 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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