



## Press Release

### **BEB, Erdgas Münster Transport, Exxon Mobil Gastransport Deutschland und EWE NETZ start L-gas cooperation**

#### **Merging of the L-gas market areas by 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2008**

**Hannover/Münster/Oldenburg, 11. September 2007.**

The market area spanning gas network operators BEB, Erdgas Münster Transport, EWE NETZ and ExxonMobil Gastransport Deutschland plan to merge their L-gas market areas to one joint market area by 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2008.

Prior to the intended merger of the three L-gas market areas the companies are going to further intensify their cooperations. Starting on 1<sup>st</sup> of December, the companies will offer a new "inter market area balancing service". This new service offers balancing group managers the possibility to exchange structural imbalances between the enlisted market areas L-Gas Norddeutschland, Erdgas Münster Transport and Verbundnetz Ems-Weser-Elbe. Structural imbalances arise if entry- and exit volumes of transport customers within their balancing groups are not completely balanced. With the new product, the balancing area will exceed the borders of the existing market areas.

Furthermore, the 4 network operators are going to set up a common internet platform for grid access in the enlisted market areas, which is planned to go live at 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2008. This platform will provide standardized information and will further simplify the booking process for the transport customers. This initiative of the involved network operators marks an additional step to simplify the grid access in Germany.

The upcoming joint L-gas market area includes about 5.000 km pipeline network of the 4 partners and 3 underground storages with a total working gas volume of about 1.2 bn cubic meters in Northern Germany. The net extends from Emden and the Dutch border to Sachsen-Anhalt and from the North Sea coast to Eastern Westfalen. The joint L-gas market area comprises more than 50 downstream networks of mostly communal grid operators. With about 15 bn m<sup>3</sup> per year the new market area will provide more than 70% of the total L-gas in Germany.

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