2015 Network Development Plan for gas reveals further details on the switchover from low to high CV gas

- TSOs are planning to invest €3.5bn by 2025 to expand the national infrastructure for natural gas
- Nationwide switchover of low CV network sectors to high CV gas contributes to long-term supply security
- Respondents to consultation provide positive feedback on document and its transparency

Berlin, 1 April 2015. The draft 2015 Network Development Plan for gas (NDP), which the German gas transmission system operators (TSOs) today submitted to the German national regulatory authority Bundesnetzagentur (BNetzA), describes more than 70 projects planned to expand the German gas infrastructure over the next ten years. “In producing the 2015 NDP, which provides a master plan for the development of the natural gas networks, the German gas TSOs make an essential contribution to successfully implementing the energy transition,” says Inga Posch, managing director of the TSO association Vereinigung der Fernleitungsnetzbetreiber Gas e.V. (FNB Gas) in a comment on the NDP’s submission to the regulator. To realise this, the TSOs are planning to carry out investments totalling around €2.8bn in the period to 2020, a figure which will rise to €3.5bn by 2025. The investments presented in the NDP are based on the scenario framework document, which was confirmed by BNetzA in November 2014.

The activities focus on the gradual switchover to high CV gas supplies of end users located in regions that are currently supplied with low CV gas. For this purpose the TSOs have presented a list detailing the currently planned measures up to 2030. One particular aspect which has already drawn great interest in the course of the consultation is the first annual high CV gas balance the TSOs have prepared. “It is our aim to deliver a successful gas quality switchover project in a joint effort together with distribution system operators, which is why the additional expansion measures now presented should be bindingly agreed and approved in a timely manner,” Posch demands.

In the course of an intensive consultation process on the 2015 NDP feedback has been received from participants attending a workshop held by the TSOs and 28 respondents who submitted written comments, all of which are addressed in the draft NDP.
Market participants have welcomed the repeated increase in the overall level of transparency provided throughout the document. The draft 2015 NDP will now enter another round of market consultation conducted by BNetzA; the regulator may demand additions or changes to the measures described, whereupon the TSOs produce a revised version of the document.

Vereinigung der Fernleitungsnetzbetreiber Gas e.V. (FNB Gas) is the association of German transmission system operators, i.e. the operators of the major supra-regional and cross-border gas pipelines. The association was established at the end of 2012 and has operated an office in Berlin since April 2013. One key focus of the association's activities is the Gas Network Development Plan, which has been drawn up annually by the TSOs since 2012. The association also acts as a central point of contact for policymakers, the media and the general public on behalf of its members.

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Network development projects proposed by the TSOs in the 2015 NDP

Source: TSOs