

Press Release

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E.ON Gastransport has a new name: Open Grid Europe

Company is implementing requirements of third EU internal market package

E.ON Gastransport was renamed Open Grid Europe on 1 September. At the same time some 1,400 employees were transferred to the new company. In future, Open Grid Europe will act as an independent transmission system operator as defined in the third EU internal energy market package: A total of 1,800 employees will ensure reliable gas transmission and handle all processes needed to operate the roughly 12,000 km gas pipeline system.

This step has been taken to meet the requirements of the third EU internal energy market package, which obligates energy companies to ensure even more stringent unbundling of trading and network operations and envisages the possibility of setting up an independent transmission operator (ITO). In line with these requirements, Open Grid Europe will perform independently all the functions needed for the company's business activities, without recourse to Group services.

"E.ON Ruhrgas is the first gas company to set up an independent transmission operator on the basis of the unbundling requirements of the third EU internal market package. Open Grid Europe will continue to be a pioneer of simple, transparent network access," said Klaus Schäfer, CEO of E.ON Ruhrgas. "But the basic conditions have to be right for investing in the gas pipeline system. We need a paradigm shift in regulation - away from pure consideration of costs to the encouragement of investment and innovation. Sustainable infrastructure development is only possible with forward-looking, moderate regulation."

The change of name to Open Grid Europe is also based on a requirement of the third EU internal market package, which stipulates that transmission system operators must have an independent corporate identity to avoid confusion with other companies in the Group.

The name itself should reflect the specific nature of transmission system operators. "The European gas transmission market is currently in a state of upheaval and is facing cross-border challenges. Our new name shows that we want to participate actively in meeting those challenges and that we are open to cooperation and new approaches," stated Stephan Kamphues, CEO of Open Grid Europe.

Open Grid Europe GmbH

Open Grid Europe, a subsidiary of E.ON Ruhrgas AG based in Essen, is Germany's leading gas transmission company. With its ultra-modern, efficient system of approx. 12,000 km of pipeline and comprehensive technical services, Open Grid Europe offers and arranges innovative, forward-looking transportation solutions for natural gas and biogas. Further company details can be found at www.open-grid-europe.com.

