

## Press Release

### “Better safe than sorry”

#### VNG receives TÜV certification for fourth time in a row

**Leipzig, July 7, 2009.** VNG – Verbundnetz Gas Aktiengesellschaft has received official confirmation of the effectiveness of its integrated management system for the fourth time in a row. The certificate was presented to Dr. Gerhard Holtmeier, VNG Board Member for Gas Sales/Technical Affairs, at a ceremony at the VNG headquarters by Michael Weigl, Managing Director, TÜV SÜD Management Service GmbH.

Under the certification audit, the auditors from TÜV SÜD Management Service GmbH inspect the integrated components of quality, environmental and safety management once every three years for compliance with the requirements of ISO 9001: 2008, ISO 14001: 2004 and BS OHSAS 18001: 2007. VNG is therefore one of the first companies in eastern Germany to complete the audit in this particular configuration.

The auditors reviewed the following processes in detail: trading, gas procurement, exploration & production, customer services / marketing, Human Resources, operations / technology, purchasing and gas storage, and also inspected VNG's test facility.

The audit findings not only confirm the high quality of workflow organization and the functional capability of the integrated management system at VNG, but also validate the continuous improvement process.

Integrating the three management systems gives VNG a holistic view of all business processes which enhances customer satisfaction and creates legal certainty.

Since VNG was privatised in 1990 some 2.4 billion euros has been invested in refurbishing existing plant, deploying new technologies and thereby increasing the safety of plant and the security of supply.

*VNG – Verbundnetz Gas AG is an international group of companies and a reliable supplier of natural gas from Norwegian, Russian and other sources to major users and municipal distributors in Europe. VNG has been active in the gas industry for over 50 years. Today, VNG is Germany's third largest gas importer and ranks among Europe's top ten. In 2008, VNG with its workforce of roughly 640 employees delivered 171.4 billion kWh of gas and generated sales of 5.5 billion euros. For further information, please go to [www.vng.de](http://www.vng.de)*