

Press Release

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Heuchert new Chairman of VNG Executive Board from September 1, 2010 / Seele new Chairman of VNG Supervisory Board with immediate effect

Leipzig, September 10, 2009. At its meeting today, the Supervisory Board of VNG – Verbundnetz Gas Aktiengesellschaft, Leipzig, appointed Dr. Karsten Heuchert (55) a member of the Executive Board and the company's new Chairman with effect from September 1, 2010. Dr. Heuchert will therefore succeed the present Chairman, Prof. e. h. Dr. Klaus-Ewald Holst (66), who retires from the Executive Board on September 30, 2010.

At today's meeting, Dr. Heuchert resigned from his post as Chairman of the Supervisory Board. The Supervisory Board elected Dr. Rainer Seele as its new Chairman.

Dr. Heuchert was born in Reinbek near Hamburg in 1954. Following an apprenticeship as a bank employee, Heuchert studied economics and law at the University of Hamburg. The economics graduate joined Wintershall in 1985 having passed his second state law exam. In 1994, Heuchert was appointed Director of the Legal Department of Wintershall. He was made a member of the Management Board of BASF Antwerpen in 1997 and appointed to the Board of Directors of Wintershall with responsibility for Finance in 2001. Heuchert is married with three children. Heuchert was a member of the Supervisory Board of VNG from 1994 to 1997 and again from 2001. He became Chairman of the Supervisory Board of VNG on May 15, 2007.

Dr. Seele was born in Bremerhaven in 1960. He studied chemistry and was awarded a PhD from Göttingen University in 1987 before joining BASF 22 years ago. Following various executive posts in research and research planning, Seele was appointed Head of the Strategic Planning Department at Wintershall in 1996. He became Managing Director of WINGAS in 2000, before joining the Board of Directors of Wintershall with responsibility for the Natural Gas Division in August 2002. Seele is married with three children. He becomes Chairman of the Board of Directors of Wintershall Holding AG with effect from October 1, 2009.

VNG – Verbundnetz Gas AG (VNG) 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