

## Press Release

*Holtmeier (VNG) / gat 2009 / biomethane / ECG*

### **VNG to set up online marketplace for biomethane**

#### **VNG and Mitgas unveil new trading platform at gat 2009 conference and exhibition in Leipzig**

**Leipzig, September 21, 2009.** VNG – Verbundnetz Gas Aktiengesellschaft (VNG) and MITGAS Mitteldeutsche Gasversorgung GmbH are presenting the first national online marketplace for biomethane which has been jointly developed by the two companies on September 22 and 23 at the gat 2009 conference and exhibition. From January 2010, registered market participants will be able to buy and sell biomethane quantities via the Internet trading platform. Visitors to gat 2009, which is being held in Leipzig this year, can find out more about the new trading platform [www.bioerdgashandel.de](http://www.bioerdgashandel.de) at the VNG stand B5/1 in hall 3.

Biomethane quantities available at the virtual trading points in the gas market areas in Germany can be traded via the online platform on the basis of a standardized delivery contract between the trading partners. “This innovative Internet marketplace will present a further opportunity for expanding market-oriented trading with biomethane,” Dr. Gerhard Holtmeier, VNG Executive Board Member for Gas Sales/Technical Affairs, commented. Market participants will be able to register a few weeks before the platform goes online in January 2010.

The online platform is being implemented by ECG Erdgas-Consult GmbH (ECG), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the VNG Group. ECG is highlighting its know-how in intelligent software solutions with the realization of the virtual market.

The VNG stand is also presenting the company’s upstream activities on the Norwegian Continental Shelf under the motto “Natural Gas from Norway”. VNG significantly extended its license portfolio begun in 2007 when the company acquired Endeavour Energy Norge AS (EEN) headquartered in Oslo in spring 2009. The two subsidiaries VNG Norge AS and VNG Norge (Operations) AS based in Norway are currently being combined to form one company.

gat is the largest specialist conference in the gas industry and is being held this year on the occasion of the DVGW 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Congress (German Technical and Scientific Association for Gas and Water). As a local company, VNG is supporting DVGW, the main organizer of gat 2009, with this anniversary event.

VNG – Verbundnetz Gas Aktiengesellschaft (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](http://www.vng.de)