

Press Release

New natural gas refuelling station in Halle

VNG-Erdgastankstellen GmbH opens refuelling station for cars and buses

Halle/Leipzig, September 23, 2009. From today drivers can refuel their natural gas vehicles at the depot of OBS Omnibusbetrieb Saalkreis GmbH. Together with county commissioner for the Saale district Frank Bannert, Hagen Kuschel, Managing Director of VNG-Erdgastankstellen GmbH (VNG-T, a company of the VNG Group), officially commissioned the refuelling station located in Kaolinstrasse. "VNG-T is investing a total of 4.2 million euros in building 16 new natural gas refuelling stations in eastern Germany – and 400,000 euros of this investment has gone into this facility here in Halle," Hagen Kuschel explained. "We chose this location because the OBS bus depot is ideally suited to refuelling natural gas-powered cars and the company's natural gas-fuelled bus fleet."

Trailblazer for passenger transport

Within the past three years, OBS Omnibusbetrieb Saalkreis GmbH has purchased a total of ten natural gas-fuelled buses and more are to follow. The county commissioner for the Saale district welcomed the OBS decision to keep on expanding its fleet of natural gas-powered buses. "The company is a trailblazer and a role model since this particular alternative fuel proactively helps to protect the environment. That is why Saale district is providing financial support in purchasing NGVs for urban public transport starting this year," county commissioner Frank Bannert said. "I am delighted that natural gas refuelling options in the Saale district have been improved through VNG-T's commitment."

Efficient deployment of natural gas-fuelled buses

Until now, OBS Omnibusbetrieb Saalkreis GmbH refuelled its buses powered by natural gas at the Energieversorgung Halle station. "Thanks to the refuelling station in our own depot, we can improve the deployment of our vehicles," Dr. Wolfdietrich Vetter, Managing Director of OBS Omnibusbetrieb Saalkreis GmbH, underscored. "We no longer have to make the 10-kilometer journey to the refuelling station and that saves both time and money." The company is backing the environmental benefits of natural gas as an automotive fuel. "We would like to thank the State of Saxony-Anhalt and the district for their financial support in purchasing the buses," Dr. Wolfdietrich Vetter added.



VNG-Erdgastankstellen GmbH



Sporting links

Olympic gold medallist and biathlon legend Frank-Peter Roetsch, diver Katja Dieckow and canoeist Tanja Schuck refuelled the first bus. The opening ceremony also provided the setting for the presentation naming Halle-born Katja Dieckow and Matthias Fahrig “Sports Personalities of the Month”. The network for sport set up by VNG – Verbundnetz Gas AG has been supporting young elite sportsmen and –women from eastern Germany since 2004.

Background: Cost and environment benefits with natural gas

Natural gas used as an automotive fuel is measured in kilos and costs 0.98 euros per kilo in Halle. Given the lower mineral oil tax and the higher energy content, the present price level is more than 60 percent cheaper than petrol and 30 percent cheaper than diesel. One kilogram of natural gas contains as much energy as 1.5 liters of premium petrol or 1.3 litres of diesel. Price-wise, this converts into 0.65 euros per litre of premium petrol and 0.75 euros per litre of diesel.

Apart from the price benefits, natural gas is also an environmentally friendly automotive fuel. It does not emit any soot particles and therefore represents an attractive option in dealing with fine dust. Compared with petrol, CO₂ emissions are lowered by 25 percent, while carbon monoxide emissions are cut by 75 percent, nitrogen oxide emissions by 60 percent and hydrogen emissions by 40 percent.