

## Press Release

*VNG / ONTRAS / GDMcom / Pipeline search*

### **VNG launches new online portal for pipeline search**

#### **Effective, time-saving response to planning enquiries**

**Leipzig, November 17, 2009.** VNG – Verbundnetz Gas Aktiengesellschaft (VNG) together with ONTRAS VNG Gastransport GmbH and GDMcom Gesellschaft für Dokumentation und Telekommunikation are today launching a joint online service for pipeline enquiries.

Developers, construction companies, planners and authorities who register with the portal can check online whether technical plant operated by the participating companies is affected by a planning project or a building measure. All that is required is geographical identification of the area in question. If the search does not come up with any hits, the system automatically issues the user with a search clearance for downloading. If the proposed measure affects the companies' technical plant, the user is informed that a written application must be submitted.

These third-party planning enquires addressed to VNG and ONTRAS are processed by the VNG subsidiary GDMcom. Each year, GDMcom receives approximately 15,000 such enquiries. A search clearance is issued in roughly 80 percent of cases. "This internet-based pipeline search speeds up the enquiry process enormously. It only takes 15 minutes for the user to find out whether there is any technical plant in the search zone," Uwe Ringel, Director Operations/Technology at VNG, explained. "The portal provides an effective and time-saving response to planning enquiries," he continued.

The online portal is based on INA.F (Internetauskunft für Fremdplanungsanfragen) software developed especially for this service by GDMcom and IT service provider Geomagic GmbH, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the VNG Group.

VNG – Verbundnetz Gas Aktiengesellschaft (VNG) is an international group of companies and a reliable supplier of natural gas from Russian, Norwegian, 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).

#### ***Third-party planning enquiries***

**www.vng.de:** Menu: "Service", then click "Pipeline Search"

**www.ontras.com:** Menu: "Network/Transparency", then click "Pipeline Search"