

## PRESS RELEASE

VNG / BALANCE Erneuerbare Energien GmbH / Biogas / "VNG 2030+" strategy

### **VNG subsidiary BALANCE acquires 40th biogas facility**

The facility in Oberlommatszsch in the district of Meißen is the 10th facility to be acquired by BALANCE in the state of Saxony.

**Leipzig, 3 January 2023.** On 1 January 2023, BALANCE Erneuerbare Energien GmbH (BALANCE), a wholly owned subsidiary of VNG, took over a biogas facility in Oberlommatszsch, Saxony, Germany. The acquisition brings the number of facilities in the BALANCE portfolio to 40 in northern and eastern Germany, ten of which are located in Saxony. As per the agreement, the purchase price has not been revealed.

With an installed capacity of 500 kW<sub>el</sub>, the facility generates around four GWh of renewable energy from biogas each year – supplying an average of around 1,200 households with power per year. The biogas facility in Oberlommatszsch is very close to the existing BALANCE facility in Bahra, which is also in the district of Meißen. "The acquisition consolidates our facility portfolio in central Saxony and, being located just one and a half kilometres from the existing facility in Bahra, provides important synergies with respect to operation and substrate supply. We look forward to consistently developing and optimising this facility in accordance with market demands," says BALANCE Managing Director Thomas Fritsch.

The substrate used consists of renewable raw materials such as maize silage, which comes from farms in the region. The long-standing supply and service partnerships with farmers and logistics companies will be maintained. "It is very important to us to take local factors into account. The production of biogas increases regional added value, represents a sustainable alternative source of income for farmers and creates jobs in rural areas," Fritsch adds.

With the acquisition of the Oberlommatszsch biogas facility, BALANCE is continuing its ambitious strategy for growth. As part of its green gas strategy, VNG is also strengthening its biogas business. "Not least in the current energy crisis, biogas as a renewable energy source helps to ensure reliability of supply. Biogas can be used flexibly, is available and storable locally, and can be used for base load. Particularly in winter months with little sun and wind, climate-friendly biogas offers an important alternative for generating electricity reliably and safely and therefore ensuring the regional energy supply," explains Hans-Joachim Polk, member of the VNG AG Executive Board responsible for Infrastructure and Technology.

With the full acquisition of the facility, which went into operation in 2007, BALANCE has added around 1.3 megawatts of rated thermal output (MW<sub>RT0</sub>) to its facilities portfolio. BALANCE now has 40 facilities in northern and eastern Germany and total installed capacity of around 166 MW<sub>RT0</sub>. This enables BALANCE to supply around 51,000 households with renewable electricity and more than 53,000 households with green gas every year.

#### **About BALANCE**

BALANCE was established in 2006. With 40 facilities in north and eastern Germany, it is one of the leading operators of biogas facilities in Germany. The company has around 160 employees and supplies people throughout Germany with locally generated, reliable and carbon-neutral energy in the form of biogas, heat and power. BALANCE also develops innovative products at every stage of the value chain and is committed to boosting the profile of biogas in a sustainable energy economy.

Thanks to its ambitious growth strategy, BALANCE now has five times as many facilities as it did in 2018 and today generates renewable energy with a rated thermal output of over 166 MW<sub>RTD</sub>. This is enough for BALANCE to supply around 51,000 households with renewable electricity and up to 53,000 households with green gas every year. As a wholly owned subsidiary of VNG AG, BALANCE brings together all of the activities of the parent group in the field of renewable energy generation. More information at: [www.balance-vng.de](http://www.balance-vng.de).

#### **About VNG**

VNG is a group of over 20 companies active in the European energy industry, employing more than 1,500 people. As the third largest gas importer and gas storage operator in Germany and operating, through subsidiary ONTRAS Gastransport GmbH, a pipeline network covering 7,700 km, the group, which is headquartered in Leipzig, is central to the secure supply of gas in Germany. VNG supplies gas to around 400 municipal utilities and industrial customers, meeting around 20% of Germany's demand for gas.

In addition, with the "VNG 2030+" strategy, VNG is pursuing an ambitious path for its commitment in the field of renewable and decarbonised gases. VNG is already one of the leading producers of biogas in Germany and is actively involved in many projects to establish a CO<sub>2</sub>-free hydrogen economy. Building on its core expertise in gas and critical infrastructure, VNG is working along the entire gas value chain to ensure a sustainable, climate-neutral and secure energy supply for the future. More at: [www.vng.de](http://www.vng.de).