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The 2015 open season will increase the gas interconnection capacity between France and Spain at Irun/Hendaye

After three years of work between French and Spanish regulators and transporters, the 2013 and 2015 open seasons will result in a significant increase in the gas interconnection capacity between France and Spain from 2013.

The 2015 open season ended on the 16 July 2010. The results were the following:

- the expressed demand and economic test to validate the development of 2 Gm³/year capacity from Spain to France, Biriadou, from 2015. Three shippers have been allocated the capacity from Spain to the North TTP;
- demand was too weak to trigger the development of the Midcat project (Perthus);
- no capacity has been allocated by the carriers from GRTgaz Nord to Spain.

French transporters will decide on the corresponding investments and the CRE will validate those decisions before the 31 January 2011.

For the record, the 2013 open season triggered the development of the Larrau interconnection point whose capacity will reach 5.5 Gm³/year in both directions in April 2013. The capacity has been allocated to eight shippers.

The CRE and the CNE both hail the results of the 2013 and 2015 open seasons. In 2015, the total interconnection capacity from Spain to France will be 7.5 Gm³/year. This represents 15% of French consumption or 18% of Spanish consumption.

These results will contribute significantly to the integration of the Iberian and European markets and supply security. They are a good example of regional cooperation between regulators, governments, transporter, the European Commission, and shippers.

Founded on 24 March 2000, the French Energy Regulatory Commission (CRE) is an independent administrative body. CRE works to guarantee smooth and efficient operation of the electricity and natural gas markets for the benefit of the end-user. It also works to guarantee the absence of discriminatory practices, cross-subsidies or restrictions on competition.

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