

Press Release

Prague, December 14th 2015

The market operator will be disconnected from the AIB HUB communication portal in January 2016

OTE stock company informs the users that on January 7th 2016 at 9:00 AM, based on the decision of the General Meeting of the 'Association of Issuing Bodies' (AIB), will the market operator be excluded from the international standardized European Electricity Certificate Scheme (EECS) and disconnected from the AIB HUB communication portal

The General Meeting of the 'Association of Issuing Bodies' (AIB) decided at its regular meeting held on December 4th 2015 to exclude OTE stock company (OTE), the competent body for the Czech Republic under Act no. 165/2012 Coll. on supported energy sources, from the international standardized European Electricity Certificate Scheme (EECS) and to disconnect OTE from the AIB HUB communication portal, which is operated by the association.

The EECS scheme and the AIB HUB portal provides harmonized procedures and transparent rules for issuance of energy certificates, such as Guarantees of Origin, and their domestic and international exchanges and transactions.

The above-mentioned decision of the AIB General Meeting was made on account of the incomplete harmonization during the implementation of the Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources) and of the Directive 2003/54/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (concerning common rules for the internal market in electricity) in the Czech legislation. Especially it is the lack of legislative treatment of work with the Guarantees of Origin of produced electricity and progress in meeting the obligation to publish the energy mix used by electricity suppliers to its end consumers.

As a consequence, the Registry of Guarantees of Origin (EZP), operated by OTE, will be disconnected on January 7th 2016 at 9:00 AM CET from the international communication portal AIB HUB, which allowed domestic operators, EZP system users, to carry out international transactions.

Domestic transactions with Guarantees of Origin under the Act no. 165/2012 Coll., as amended, will remain fully functional in the EZP system.

OTE remains a member of the AIB association and is keen to return to the EECS scheme and to connect to the AIB HUB portal to allow imports and exports of Guarantees of Origin. Its representatives will continue discussions with legal standards' and implementing regulations' submitters. They will take all the available steps that lead to ensure the complete harmonization of Czech legislation with the relevant European Directives and implementation of the best-practice of neighboring Member States.

OTE will inform about the reintegration into the EECS scheme and AIB HUB portal.

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OTE, a.s.

OTE, a.s., the Czech electricity and gas market operator, (OTE) is a joint stock company established in 2001. OTE provides comprehensive services to individual electricity and gas market players. OTE commenced organizing trading in the day-ahead electricity market in 2002 and the intra-day and block electricity markets in later years. OTE has been the market operator on the gas market since 2010 including operation of day-ahead gas market and intraday gas market. Continuous data processing and exchange required for the accounting and settlement of imbalance between the contractual and actual volumes of electricity and gas supplied and received are among services offered by the OTE to players in the Czech electricity and gas markets, as well as administrative procedures associated with a switch of supplier. The OTE also administers the National Register of Greenhouse Gas Emissions. OTE is the holder of the license for market operator's activities, which includes activities in the electricity and gas market in the Czech Republic.

Additional information is available on www.ote-cr.cz.