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**DECISION OF THE RAE (Regulatory Authority for Energy) No.  
484/2022**

**Granting a license for an independent natural gas system  
(INGS) to ICGB AD for the Greece – Bulgaria interconnector  
area, which passes through Greece**

**The Regulatory Authority for Energy**

At its regular meeting, at its registered office, on **26 May 2022**,

**having regard to:**

1. The provisions of Law 4001/2011 on the *Operation of Electricity and Gas Energy Markets, for Exploration, Production and Transmission Networks of Hydrocarbons and other provisions* (Government Gazette, Section A, No. 179 of 22.8.2011, hereinafter referred to as "Law"), as applicable, and in particular Articles 76-79 and 90 thereof.
2. The provisions of Directive 2009/73/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 concerning common rules for the internal market in natural gas and repealing Directive 2003/55/EC (hereinafter referred to as "Directive"), and in particular Article 36 thereof.
3. The provisions of Regulation (EC) No. 715/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 on conditions for access to the natural gas transmission networks and repealing Regulation (EC) No. 1775/2005.
4. Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/459 of 16 March 2017 establishing a network code on capacity allocation mechanisms in gas transmission systems and repealing Regulation (EU) No 984/2013.
5. The provisions of Decision No. 178065 of 8.8.2018 of the Minister for the Environment and Energy, *Natural Gas Licensing Ordinance*" (Government Gazette, section B, No. 3430 of 17.08.2018, hereinafter, "License Ordinance").

6. The provisions of Law 2364/1995 establishing an Authority for Energy Control and Planning. Import, transport, Trade and Distribution of Natural Gas and Other Provisions (Government Gazette, section A, No. 252 of 29.01.2016).
7. Decision No. 483/2018 of the RAE and Decision No R-BO-1/2018 of the SEWR approving the general text entitled *Joint Opinion of the Energy Regulators on the Exemption Application of ICGB AD*.
8. Decision of 25 July 2018 No C(2018) 5058 final of the European Commission "on the exemption of the Interconnector Greece-Bulgaria from the requirements regarding third party access, tariff regulation and ownership unbundling, notified to the RAE by email of the European Commission No. I-243557 of 27.7.2018.
9. Decision No. 768 of 06.08.2018 of the RAE (Government Gazette No. 4052 of 17.09.2018) on "Amendment to Decision 483/2018 for its conformity pursuant to Article 36 (9) of Directive 2009/73/EC, with Decision of the European Commission No. [C(2018)5058 final] of 16.05.2013 on the exemption of Interconnector Greece-Bulgaria (IGB) from the provisions of Articles 9, 32 and 41(6), (8) and (10) of Directive 2009/73/EC", with which the final decision on the exemption "Final Joint Decision of the Energy Regulators on the Exemption Application of ICGB AD - Energy and Water Regulatory Commission (Bulgaria) and Regulatory Authority for Energy (Greece) was approved (hereinafter referred to as the "Exemption Decision") as well as the relevant decision No P-BO-2 of 08.08.2018 of the SEWR.
10. RAE Decision No. 918/2019 on "Approval of the Management Code and the Regulation on the Pricing of the Interconnector Greece-Bulgaria (IGB) in accordance with the joint decision of the regulatory authorities of Greece and Bulgaria" (Government Gazette, section B, No. 1531 of 2020), as well as the relevant decision K-1/2019 of the SEWR (record No. PAE I-280853 of 28.04.2020).
11. Decision No. 671/2019 of the RAE granting a license for an independent natural gas system (INGS) to the company ICGB AD (hereinafter, "INGS License").
12. The provisions of Law 4769/2021 (Government Gazette, section A, No. 14 of 2021), a) Ratification of the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria on the Interconnector Greece-Bulgaria (IGB project) [...]"
13. Application with Record No. PAE I-293199 of 14.12.2020 (special record No PAE Γ-08589) of the company ICGB AD for issuance an INGS Management License.
14. Notice of 01.03.2021 of the RAE<sup>1</sup> on the application filed, in accordance with the current legislation.
15. Decision No. 483/2022 of the RAE on "Certification of company ICGB AD as an independent natural gas transmission operator".
16. The fact that no objections have been raised.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.rae.gr/adeiodotiseis/7669/>

## Considering as follows:

### A. Legal framework

**Whereas**, with RAE decision No. 671/2019, an INGS (independent natural gas system) license was granted to ICGB AD for the Greek part of the Interconnector Greece-Bulgaria (IGB), which is valid for a period of fifty (50) years from the date of the start of commercial operation of the gas pipeline.

**Whereas**, with the Decisions (7) and (9) of the RAE and the SEWR, respectively, the company ICGB AD was granted an exemption pursuant to Article 36 of Directive 73/2009/EC. Said exemption relieves ICGB AD for 25 years from the Commercial Operation Date (COD) from any third party requests for access, pricing and ownership unbundling. The Exemption Decision includes more specific conditions and conditions precedent as described in section 4 of the Exemption Decision, which set out a specific regulatory framework for the management and operation of the IGB pipeline with regard to the certification issues, the tariff regulation for the pipeline operation and the third party access to the infrastructure. The exemption from third party access is granted only for the part of the pipeline capacity that is bound by a Market Test. For the rest of the capacity, the European third-party access framework must be respected.

**Whereas**, pursuant to Article 77 of the Law: “1. *The INGS management and operation is allowed to those who have obtained an INGS Management License. In the event of the management, operation and development of an independent natural gas transmission system, the management license shall not relieve its holder of the certification obligation in accordance with the provisions of Articles 64 and 65.* 2. *The INGS Management License is issued based on an application filed, in accordance with the Regulation on Licenses, by decision of the RAE. With the INGS license and at the request of the INGS License holder, a third party may be allowed to conduct INGS management operations.* 3. *The INGS Management License, in the case of a natural gas transmission system for which no exemption has been granted in accordance with Article 36 of Directive 2009/73/EC, shall be granted exclusively to the holder of the respective INGS License. In any other case, the INGS Management License may be granted on the basis of performance and financial balance criteria to a person other than the INGS license holder. In this case, the INGS License holder shall enter into a contract with the INGS Management License holder, which contract shall determine the remuneration to be paid for assuming the INGS management from the total revenue collected by INGS based on published operation tariffs.* 4. *The INGS operator shall legally carry out the main natural gas-related activities specified in the INGS Management License.* 5. [...] 6. *If the INGS operator is involved in a vertically integrated electricity or natural gas undertaking to ensure equal treatment of the users of INGS, the Operator shall establish a compliance program specifying the measures taken, to exclude any discriminatory treatment in favor of the vertically integrated electricity or gas undertaking and to ensure adequate monitoring of the compliance with the program. The compliance program shall set out the specific obligations of the INGS personnel to achieve this objective. This program shall be subject to approval by the RAE, which shall be deemed to have been silently granted in the event of no objection by the RAE within three (3) weeks of submission of the program for approval.* 7. *The approved compliance program referred to in section 6 shall be published on the INGS operator’s website within five*

*(5) days of its approval. Subject to the retention of competence of the RAE as defined in Article 20 hereof, the compliance with the program shall be subject to independent control by the executive or the INGS operator authority responsible for monitoring of the compliance program, who shall act as responsible for compliance and shall have access to all relevant information of the Operator and any subsidiary thereof for the performance of their duties Not later than 31 March each year, the compliance officer shall submit to the RAE an annual report in a written form, describing the measures taken to comply with the compliance program, which report shall be published on the RAE website within five (5) days of submission. Based on the compliance officer's reports, the RAE shall assess the independence and the impartiality of the INGS operator on an annual basis and may, by its decision, require an amendment to the compliance program to ensure the independence and the impartiality of the INGS Operator, indicating appropriate measures for this purpose. The INGS Operator shall comply with the RAE instructions and shall submit for approval, in accordance with the provisions of section 6, a new compliance program within fifteen (15) working days of notification of the RAE decision. RAE shall publish on its website an assessment report on the INGS compliance program not later than 30 April each year. 8. The INGS Management License shall determine the terms and conditions, and the measures necessary to ensure the independence, the operational division and the impartial and non-discriminatory conduct of the license holder, in accordance with the more specific provisions of this Law."*

**Whereas**, in addition, Article 78 of the Law describes the responsibilities of the INGS Operator as follows: *"1. The INGS Operator shall control, maintain, operate and technically develop a complete, cost-effective and integrated INGS. 2. For this purpose, the INGS Operator shall: (a) provide another INGS operator, when both INGS are interconnected, as well as users of INGS, with access to the INGS in the most cost-effective, transparent and immediate manner and for as long as requested. For that purpose, the INGS Operator shall enter into an INGS use agreement with persons registered in the INGS User Register in accordance with a relevant standard contract, which shall be drawn up and published by the INGS Operator after approval by the RAE. The INGS use agreement shall specify in particular the services provided to the counterparty as well as the fees payable in accordance with the published tariff. The refusal to grant access to INGS is only allowed in the event of lack of capacity, in accordance with the INGS Management Code, or where the access to INGS may prevent the INGS Operator from performing the assigned public utility obligations, unless an exemption has been granted in accordance with the provisions of Article 76. In any case, the INGS transmission operator shall make the necessary improvements to the system to ensure access where economically feasible or where a potential user is willing to pay for them; (b) provide its services in a transparent, objective and non-discriminatory manner among the INGS users and, in particular, discrimination in favor of its affiliated undertakings, their shareholders or their subsidiaries; (c) publish a list of all tariffs used to charge to the users for the INGS-related services; (d) establish and publish on an annual basis a maintenance work program to be approved by RAE and used to maintain the INGS; (e) maintain an INGS User Register which is published on its website; (f) ensure compliance with the INGS rules related to load balancing and compensation for physical losses and own consumption of INGS in accordance with the INGS Management Code and charge the respective charges to the INGS users. The methodology for the preparation of the INGS load balancing charges has been approved by the RAE in accordance with Article 88. (g) provide any other natural gas system or distribution system operator that*

connects to INGS with sufficient information for the safe and efficient functioning of the interconnected natural gas systems and distribution grids; (h) the INGS Operator is obliged to respect the confidentiality of commercial information which is known to them in the exercise of their responsibilities and to prevent the disclosure of information relating to their own activities which may confer commercial advantages on third parties in a discriminatory manner. The INGS Operator is also obliged not to misuse commercially sensitive information received from any third parties when granting or negotiating access to the INGS. (i) take the measures for security of supply provided for in the INGS Management Code and inform the RAE accordingly, and, if necessary, DESFA SA (National Natural Gas System Operator); (j) prepare an emergency response and crisis management plan that is subject to approval by the RAE; (k) plan new investments to strengthen and expand the INGS, in line with the INGS Management Code; (l) not later than 31 March each year, submit to RAE a written report on the INGS operation and on the INGS level and quality of maintenance in the previous year. This report shall describe the existing transport potential of INGS as well as any changes in the INGS performance. 3. The INGS users are obliged to provide their Operator with sufficient information to ensure that the INGS operates safely and effectively under conditions of free competition.».

**Whereas** the above legal framework has been further specified in the Licensing Regulation. In particular, paragraphs 1 and 3 of Article 3 set out the following: “1. Entitled to file an application for an INGS License and an INGS Management License are legal entities having the legal form of a joint-stock company or a limited liability company, or a private equity company, which: a) are legally established with registered office in a member state of the European Union, the European Economic Area (EEA) and countries of the Energy Community or in third countries, in so far as the relevant law derives from a bilateral agreement which the third country has concluded with Greece or the European Union or b) have established a branch in Greece. ... 3. Entitled to file an application for an INGS Management License shall be the holder or applicant for an INGS License in the case of a natural gas transmission system for which no exemption has been granted in accordance with Article 36 of the Directive. In any other case, the holder or applicant for an INGS License and any other legal person meeting the conditions of paragraph 2 of Article 26 of this Regulation shall be entitled to apply.».

**Whereas** Chapter VI of the Licensing Regulation includes more specific provisions for the INGS Management License and in particular the conditions precedent for the issuance of an INGS Management License: “Article 25 – Subject of the INGS Management License. 1. The INGS Management License allows the management, operation and development of an independent natural gas system. 2. The INGS operator shall legally carry out the main natural gas-related activities specified in the INGS Management License. 3. With the INGS license and at the request of the INGS License holder, a third party may be allowed to conduct INGS management operations. Article 26 - Conditions precedent for granting an INGS Management License. 1. The INGS Management License is granted based on the provisions of Chapters A to B. The INGS Management License, in the case of a natural gas transmission system for which no exemption has been granted in accordance with Article 36 of Directive 2009/73/EC, shall be exclusively granted to the holder of the respective INGS License. 3. In any other case, the INGS license may be granted on the basis of performance and financial balance criteria to a person other than the INGS license holder. 4. An application for an INGS Management License shall be filed at

least eighteen (18) months before the Commercial Operation Date of the INGS that is specified in the INGS License. 5. .... 6. ....”.

**Whereas**, pursuant to Article 90 (2) of the Law: *"The criteria for granting a License under the provisions of this Law are in particular: (a) the safety and the protection of natural gas systems as well as the facilities and related equipment; b) the applicant's specific technical and financial characteristics, in particular, applicant's solvency; c) user protection, for the purpose of providing high-level services and for achieving the best prices; d) environment and climate protection against the impact of natural gas-related operations and ensuring energy efficiency; e) ensuring and strengthening healthy competition in the natural gas market. The above criteria are specified in details in para. 1 of the Licensing Regulation.».*

**Whereas**, as defined in the above mentioned Article of the Law, the assessment criteria are specified in Article 11 of the Licensing Regulation as follows: *"1. During the application examination procedure, the RAE shall assess the compliance with the general evaluation criteria under Article 90 (2) of the Act as indicated below: a) the safety and protection of the natural gas systems as well as the facilities and related equipment, taking into account in particular the requirements of the National Gas System Management Code and the Natural Gas Distribution Network Management Code, as well as the applicant's proposed plan on the issues of security, maintenance and handling of emergency situations as shown by the relevant data contained in the application supporting documentation. This check does not address the safety of the operation of the infrastructure site concerned, as this is checked at a subsequent stage of licensing by the competent technical services. b) The applicant's specific technical and financial characteristics, in particular: (aa) applicant's technical experience in matters relating to the exercise of the natural gas-related activity to which the application relates; (bb) applicant's organizational and administrative structure, which must be adequate to ensure the reliable, reasonable and correct exercise of the natural gas-related activity to which the application relates; and c) applicant's ability to carry out the activity, as evidenced by the documents and particulars presented in accordance with the relevant license-specific annexes of Section I of the Annexes to this Regulation. c) Protection of consumers with a view to provide high-level services and to achieve the best prices, in particular, to ensure the continuous supply of natural gas and the best value for money, taking into account in particular the applicant's plan as included in its business plan; d) the protection of the environment and the climate from the impact of the natural gas-related activities if the application supporting documentation or the data provided to the Authority show that major environmental problems are created. During this control, the overall environmental impact of the project is not considered as this is checked at a subsequent licensing stage by the competent environmental authorities; e) ensuring and strengthening healthy competition in the natural gas market in order to reduce the energy costs for all consumers and customers, with particular emphasis on avoiding distortions or restrictions of competition among the energy companies, as well as providing third party access to the natural gas networks and facilities in a transparent, objective and impartial manner among the consumers. 2. If even one of the criteria is not met, the application shall be rejected and the other criteria shall not be considered."* In addition, Article 12 includes specific assessment criteria for each type of license and, in particular, paragraph 1, section D, the following: *"For the INGS Management License and the Distribution Network Management*

*License, the applicant must have equity or share capital of at least four hundred thousand euros (€400 000,00), pursuant to Article 90 (1A) of the Law.*

## **B. Examination of the application**

**Whereas** the company with the name of ICGB AD (hereinafter referred to as "ICGB AD" or "Company" or "Applicant") with document 13 submitted to the RAE an application for being granted a License to operate an independent natural gas system (hereinafter referred to as "INGS") for the gas pipeline section located on Greek territory. The company ICGB AD already holds an INGS License pursuant to Decision No. 671/2019.

**Whereas** the application filed was regular, as the applicant is entitled to file the application in question. In particular, the conditions precedent of Article 3 (1) of the Licensing Regulation are fulfilled, as ICGB AD is legally established and based in a member state of the European Union (Bulgaria). In addition, the conditions of paragraph 3 of the same Article are fulfilled as the applicant, although having obtained an exemption under Article 36 of the Directive, is itself holder of the respective INGS License (related document 11).

**Whereas** the application was filed within the prescribed period, i.e., at least one year before the start of commercial operation of the ICGB pipeline, as indicated in the INGS License, in particular in 2020.

**Whereas**, as shown in the documentation enclosed to the application, the application is found to be entirely regular as filed in accordance with the provisions of Article 4 of the Licensing Regulation, in paper form and in accordance with the model license application form, which is indicated in Annex I, Section I of the Licensing Regulation. All documents and information provided for in Annex III of Section I of the Annexes to the Licensing Regulation as well as the information referred to in Article 4 (1a) and (1b) of the Licensing Regulation were enclosed to the application.

**Whereas**, following the publication of a summary of the application on the website of the RAE (14, respectively) and electronic transmission to the municipalities concerned, in application of Article 7 of the Licensing Regulation, no objections have been raised to the application in question.

**Whereas**, pursuant to the Exemption Decision, the regulatory authorities of Greece and Bulgaria have already issued a preliminary decision to certify the Company as an Independent Natural Gas Transmission Operator (Chapter IV of Directive 2009/73/EC, to the exclusion of the provisions of Article 22 of the Directive on "Network Development and Investment Decision empowerment", which approved the submitted compliance program (see 15).

**Whereas** the regulators of Greece and Bulgaria have already approved the Management Code and the Regulation on the Pricing of the ICGB Pipeline (see 10).

**Whereas** RAE examined the application with respect to the criteria of the Law referred to in particular in Article 11 (1) of the Licensing Regulation and found that they were fulfilled in their entirety. In particular:

- With regard to criterion (a): Based on the documents enclosed to the application, and in particular Appendix 16 “Description of the basic infrastructure for the monitoring and control of the INGS operation” and Appendix 17 “Description of operator’s internal procedures to deal with emergencies and in general the safe and effective operation of the IGB pipeline”, where reference is made to the relevant standards and regulations, the intention and appropriate preparation of the Company for the safety and protection of the pipeline, the facilities and the related equipment shall be assumed. Also, Chapter 11 of the IGB Pipeline Management Code describes (a must for the Company) the procedures in the event of an emergency.
- With regard to criterion (6): The examination of the application data shows that the applicant has the technical competence as well as the appropriate organizational and administrative structure to ensure the safe and reliable operation of the project, as ICGB was established for the construction and operation of the pipeline under construction in question and the Company’s staff was appointed on the basis of their experience in the management, construction and operation of gas pipelines in general. This fact has been confirmed by the Greek and Bulgarian regulatory authorities in connection with the preliminary exemption decision (see 15). In addition, the maintenance services of the Greek section will be entrusted to a specialized external supplier, which will be selected on the basis of their technical expertise and abilities. And finally, the Applicant’s solvency is demonstrated by their ability to provide the full financing of the project, which is expected to be implemented by using the available resources of ICGB AD, the European Energy Program for Recovery (EEPR), European Investment Bank (EIB), from Bulgarian Innovation and Competitiveness 2014-2020 Operational Program (ICOP) and from an increase in the share capital of the Applicant's shareholders.
- With regard to criterion (c): The fulfillment of this criterion is ensured by the Management Code and the Pricing Regulation, approved by the regulatory authorities with a joint decision (see 10). In particular, the Pricing Regulation, which has been approved on the basis of the rules set out in the exemption decision ensures the achievement of optimal prices. In the case of over-income, an instrument is provided for the return to the consumers.
- With regard to criterion (d): The impact of the ICGB pipeline, in particular on public safety, Earth’s resources, ambient air quality, terrestrial flora and fauna, cultural resources, energy resources and mineral wealth, geology, land utilization, noise, water quality was adequately documented during the INGS licensing procedure (see 11), which describes the specific measures that the Company will take to prevent or reduce the environmental impact. The Company further states that the pipeline will be tested and operated in accordance with all relevant safety rules and regulations, by focusing on safety and using analytical tools to identify and quantify all potential risks.
- With regard to criterion (e): With the Decisions No. 768/2018 of RAE and No. P-BO-2/08.08.2018 of SEWR (see 9), the IGB pipeline has been granted an exemption from the provisions of Articles 9, 32 and 41(6), (8) and (10) of Directive 2009/73/EC in accordance with the more specific conditions, included in the joint Annex “Final Joint Decision of the Energy Regulators on the Exemption Application of ICGB AD - Energy and Water Regulatory Commission (Bulgaria) and Regulatory Authority for Energy (Greece)”, and in

particular in Chapter 4 thereof. The final exemption decision has already determined that the specific investment will enhance the competition in the regional natural gas market. For part of the pipeline capacity, the Applicant is exempted from the duty of granting access to any third parties and this capacity is allocated on the basis of the relevant market test. As regards the remaining capacity of the infrastructure and in accordance with the provisions of the Exemption Decision, Regulation (EC) 715/2009 and the Law, the capacity allocation will be done through tenders as defined in Regulation (EU) 459/2017 (see 4).

- As regards the minimum required share capital provided for in Article 90 (c) of the Law and in Article 12 (1), item c) of the Licensing Regulation, as can be seen from the application data, the Company has a share capital exceeding four hundred thousand euros (€ 400 000,00).

*For the above reasons*

### **It is decided**

To grant to the company ICGB AD an Independent Natural Gas System (INGS) Management License in accordance with the Law and the Licensing Regulation, for the pipeline section which passes through Greece, with the following license details and general and special conditions included in this License.

#### **1. License details**

**LIST OF DETAILS OF THE NATURAL GAS LICENSE**

<i>License holder details</i>	<b>ICGB AD</b>
<i>Registered office</i>	<b>Sofia 1000, Bulgaria, 13, Veslets str., floor 2</b>
<i>Shareholding structure</i>	<b>Bulgarian Energy Holding EAD with 50% (50 percent); IGI Poseidon SA with 50% (50 percent)</b>
<i>Type of license</i>	<b>LICENSE FOR MANAGEMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT NATURAL GAS SYSTEM (INGS)</b>
<i>Term</i>	<b>Fifty (50) years from the start of commercial operation of the pipeline</b>

#### **2. Description of INGS**

Interconnector Greece Bulgaria – IGB), with a total length of 182 kilometers, will transport natural gas across the Greek-Bulgarian border by connecting the National Natural Gas System (ESFA) and the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) in the Komotini region of Greece with the Bulgarian Gas Transmission System (Bulgartransgaz) in the Stara Zagora region in Bulgaria.

The section of the pipeline passing through Greece, for which an INGS License was issued has

an overall length of approximately 32 km and a diameter of 32" ( $\approx 813$  millimeters). It starts near the Industrial Zone of Komotini and follows a northern direction toward the Greek-Bulgarian border, the whole route of which being situated in the Regional Unit (Prefecture) of Rhodope. Installations in Greece include one metering and regulating station in the Komotini area, which will include two (2) connections to the operators of the DESFA transmission system and TAP and one valve unit in the Nymphaea area. The initial transmission capacity of the pipeline system is 3 billion  $m^3$  of natural gas per year, with a possibility of extension of up to 5 billion  $m^3$  of natural gas per year, with the future addition of a compressor station.

### **3. Geographical location of the INGS**

The pipeline route along the Greek territory is about 31,5 kilometers long, starting from the Komotini region, near the Industrial Zone of Komotini and going in the northern direction to the Greek-Bulgarian border.

The whole Greek part of the project is located within the framework of the Rhodope Regional Unit.

### **4. Pipeline technical and functional features**

The gas pipeline system in Greece comprises the following main facilities:

- I. An underground pipeline with a length of approximately 31,5 km, a diameter of 32 inches and a design pressure of 80 barg. The initial transmission capacity of the pipeline system is 3 billion  $m^3$  of natural gas per year, with a possibility of extension of up to 5 billion  $m^3$  of natural gas per year, with the future addition of a compressor station.
- II. One measuring and regulating station in the Komotini area, with two separate systems for measuring the quantities of gas, for measuring the quantities coming from the DESFA and TAP pipelines, respectively.

The measuring and regulating station of Komotini (GMS-1) comprises two (2) connections to the ESFA and TAP transmission systems. The station comprises separate measuring equipment and settings for each connection, and the auxiliary equipment is intended to be common to both connections.

Descriptively, each connection to the ESFA and TAP transmission systems will have the following equipment:

- natural gas filters
- gas pre-heaters
- gas meters
- gas regulators
- gas analyzer
- gas chromatograph
- fuel gas system (for generation of hot water)

The common auxiliary equipment has the following equipment:

- hot water system

- hot water storage
  - closed drain system (for hydrocarbon condensates)
  - venting system
  - nitrogen production system
  - emergency diesel generator
  - firefighting system
  - scraper trap
- III. One valve unit in the region of Nymphaea. The main equipment of the station is a flow control valve with a venting system.

## **5. Timetable of activities**

According to the Exemption Decision, as amended and in force, the IGB pipeline is expected to be put into commercial operation no later than 1 July 2022.

## **6. INGS-related activities**

The holder of this License, the INGS operator, shall operate, maintain, control, use and develop the INGS with a view to be cost-effective, technically integral and complete so that the needs of the natural gas consumers are served, in a safe, sufficiently reliable and cost-effective manner.

The holder of this License, the INGS operator, shall provide natural gas transmission services to the users of INGS in accordance with the specific terms and conditions of the Exemption Decision and the IGB Pipeline Management Code in the most economic, transparent and direct manner, without discrimination among the users, and in particular, shall:

- (a) monitor through control systems by ensuring the normal, safe, reliable and continuous technical operation of the pipeline;
- (b) provide users with access to INGS in the most economical, transparent and direct way and for as long as they so wish by entering into transport contracts without compromising the normal and safe functioning of the INGS;
- (s) receive amounts of natural gas at the entry points, supply natural gas at the gas pipeline's exit points, distribute quantities among the users and take care to ensure the quality of the natural gas;
- (d) perform measurements of the quantities received and delivered and ensure the correct operation of the measuring stations;
- (e) be responsible for the pipeline operational balancing;
- (f) be responsible for compensating any physical losses and the pipeline own consumption;
- (g) implement congestion management mechanisms at the entry points and the exit points on the basis of market mechanisms, where possible.
- (h) provide an immediate and effective response to emergency situations;
- (i) enter into agreements with the operators of connected transmission systems and

distribution networks in order to enhance their operational interoperability, communication and mutual cooperation;

(j) maintain an INGS User Register;

(k) provide each INGS user with sufficient information on the use of the system and reserved transmission capacity, to ensure healthy competition, effective access to the INGS and the transmission of natural gas in a manner compatible with safe, reliable and effective operation of the INGS, subject to the confidentiality of commercial information which has become known to them in the exercise of their powers.

### **7. Compliance with the legislative and regulatory framework**

The INGS License holder must comply with the national and European legislative and regulatory framework governing the activity related to the natural gas transmission, in so far as this is not contrary to the Exemption Decision.

### **8. Compliance with the general conditions of the Licensing Regulation**

The INGS Management License holder is required to comply with the Law and the provisions of Section II of Annex 1 and the Appendices to the General Licensing Conditions in the Licensing Regulation as in force.

### **9. Compliance with the special conditions of the Licensing Regulation and the INGS Management License**

The holder of the INGS Management License shall comply with the provisions of Section II of Annex 3 and the Appendices to the Licensing Regulation as in force.

### **10. Compliance with the conditions of the Exemption Decision**

Throughout the period of validity of the Exemption Decision, the holder of the INGS Management License must comply with the more specific rules and prerequisites of the part entitled "Part 4: Authorities' Joint Decision" of its Annex. The infringement of the conditions of the Exemption Decision constitutes a breach of the terms of this INGS Management License.

### **11. Amendment to the License**

This INGS Management License shall be amended in accordance with Articles 17 and 18 of the Licensing Regulation.

### **12. Withdrawal of the License**

This INGS Management License shall be withdrawn as provided for in Article 20 of the Licensing Regulation.

### **13. Renewal of the License**

This INGS Management License may be extended in accordance with Article 16 of the Licensing

Regulation.

*An objection may be raised against this Decision within thirty (30) days of the publication or notification of the Decision pursuant to Article 32 (2) of Law 4001/2011.*

**Athens, 26.05.2022**  
**Chairman of the RAE**

**Associated Professor Atanasios**  
**Dagoumas**