



PRESS RELEASE

Uithuizen, 15 May 2025

Milestone NGT: 50 years of safe and reliable gas transport

On 15 May 1975, the first Dutch North Sea gas flowed ashore via the pipeline of Noordgas transport (NGT), a major player in the Dutch infrastructure, in Uithuizen. NGT has been transporting safe and reliable natural gas from the North Sea to the Dutch mainland for 50 years. Since its inception in 1975, NGT has maintained an impressive system availability of 99.5% and continues to supply energy to thousands of households and industrial users throughout the year. With this milestone, NGT is also looking ahead. The company plays a crucial role in the energy transition by making its offshore infrastructure suitable for the transport of sustainable gases such as hydrogen and CO₂.

From Dallas to Uithuizen

The company was founded by the Hunt brothers from Dallas, Texas. Their company, Placid Oil, discovered the L10 gas field in the Dutch part of the North Sea and planned to build a pipeline to bring the natural gas ashore. At the time, the Dutch government felt that there was no demand for offshore gas, since the Groningen gas field had just been discovered. Placid Oil therefore turned to Germany, but when the pipeline had almost reached the island of Schiermonnikoog, the Dutch government changed its position and decided that the gas should be delivered to the Netherlands for electricity production. The pipeline was therefore rerouted and connected in Uithuizen, northeast of Groningen. Today, NGT's infrastructure consists of about 500 km of pipelines and a gas purification plant. From start-up to 2024, NGT transported a total of 360 billion Nm³ of natural gas. In 2024, NGT transported more than 31% of the total Dutch offshore gas production. The current shareholders of NGT are respectively pension and investment fund Pension Danmark and Aberdeen Investments and the exploration and production companies Eni and Tenaz Energy.

Smart reuse

NGT has been investigating how its gas network can be reused for sustainable energy since 2018. "We are looking at CO₂ and hydrogen transport at sea, among other things," says Bartholomeus, managing director of NGT. This resulted in a Certificate of Suitability for pure hydrogen transport from independent certification institute Bureau Veritas in 2022. In addition, reuse and scenario studies have been completed in collaboration with engineering and consultancy firms Enersea and Guidehouse for the development of a hydrogen network at sea. By making smart use of existing gas infrastructure instead of

building new, we save a lot of social costs and reduce the environmental impact. It is one of the fastest and most efficient ways to promote the energy transition, while North Sea gas can continue to be accommodated. Blending hydrogen into the existing natural gas infrastructure also contributes to this.

The Dutch government has the ambition to accommodate 70 gigawatts of wind energy at sea. This is not only done via electrons (electricity), but also via molecules (hydrogen). "Our gas pipelines can transport as much energy as seven electricity cables," says Bartholomeus. "With the knowledge and expertise that we have built up over the past 50 years, we are better equipped than anyone else to manage the current and future energy infrastructure in the North Sea safely and reliably and we can continue to supply Dutch and European society with energy safely, reliably and cost-effectively."

Contact

Pierre Bartholomeus, cell phone: +31 (0)6 – 13 50 79 03



Photo: Construction of the NGT pipeline in the early 1970s.