

PRESS RELEASE
Thursday, 8th April 2010

**GASLINK ANNOUNCES FOUR NEW TOWNS
TO BE CONNECTED TO NATURAL GAS NETWORK**

Gaslink, the independent operator of Ireland's natural gas network, is pleased to announce the extension of the natural gas network to an additional four towns in counties Tipperary, Cork and Meath, at a capital cost of approximately €15 million.

Timing and roll-out to the four towns will be on a phased basis and will be dependent on demand, interest and industrial / commercial development in each town.

The announcement follows the completion of Phase 3 of the 'New Towns Study', which was initiated by Bord Gáis Networks in 2008 with the objective of determining the economic viability of connecting new towns to the natural gas network. Gaslink took over responsibility for Phase 3 of the 'New Towns Study' in July 2008.

Phase 3, which has been approved by the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER), analysed 39 towns in terms of each town's estimated demand for gas; forecasted population growth; anticipated rise in industrial / commercial activities and the required infrastructure to meet the demand.

These factors were subjected to a cost benefit analysis for each town and based on this analysis the following four towns were found to qualify for connection to the natural gas network: Tipperary Town in Tipperary, Kinsale and Innishannon in Cork and Kells, in Meath.

"This is good news for the four towns and Gaslink will work with local authorities, businesses and developers in each town to ensure that natural gas flows to these towns as soon as economically viable," said Aidan O'Sullivan, General Manager, Gaslink.

The 'New Towns Study' considered the viability of 70 towns across the country, 21 of which have proven viable for connection to the natural gas network. Phase 1 was completed in 2006, with 11 new towns announced; Phase 2 was completed in 2007, with six new towns announced. Phase 3 is the final phase of the Study, with four new towns announced today. The total capital investment arising from the Study will be approximately €79 million.

Gaslink will continue to review towns which did not qualify for connection following the Study and other towns on an ongoing basis. The key factor which would qualify a town or group of towns in any future review would be a significant increase in demand for natural gas, probably resulting from the addition of a new large industrial or commercial facility.

A copy of the Phase 3 New Towns Study is available on the Gaslink website, www.gaslink.ie

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Issued on behalf of Gaslink by Heneghan PR

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Notes for Editors:

Gaslink is the independent operator of the natural gas network. Established in November 2007, the primary function of Gaslink is to ensure the secure, reliable and efficient transmission and distribution of natural gas in the Republic of Ireland in a cost-efficient manner and with due regard for the environment. Gaslink ensures non-discriminatory access to the natural gas network and avoids conflicts of interest. Gaslink is an independent subsidiary of Bord Gáis Éireann and is licensed by and reports to the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER). See: www.gaslink.ie for further information.