



Press release

Bonn, 7 October 2020
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Bundesnetzagentur welcomes agreement between Telekom and Telefónica

Jochen Homann: "Strong signal for further cooperation"

Telekom and Telefónica have informed the Bundesnetzagentur that they will continue their fixed network cooperation and extend it to include full-fibre connections as well as VDSL/vectoring connections.

"The Bundesnetzagentur welcomes the agreement, which sends a strong signal for further cooperation between market players. I hope the open access idea catches on and other parties make voluntary agreements on the (shared) use of the respective networks, even though their positions are rather far apart at the moment," said Jochen Homann, Bundesnetzagentur President.

Homann continued, *"The Bundesnetzagentur has always stressed that voluntary, commercial agreements between market players are preferable, given the particular challenges posed by the broadband rollout. They make it possible to avoid tough decisions by the regulatory authority in a highly disputed environment, which may be followed by years of legal wrangling. It is largely within the power of the companies themselves to ensure greater planning certainty for their investments in the construction and expansion of modern, gigabit networks and to pick up speed with these."*

Telefónica's contractually agreed access to the Telekom network is subject to sector-specific telecoms regulation. The ruling chamber responsible for these matters at the Bundesnetzagentur will examine whether the agreement meets regulatory requirements in good time before it comes into force. If it does, the cooperation can continue and be expanded as agreed.

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The Bundesnetzagentur is an authority under the responsibility of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy. Its core tasks include supervising the energy, telecommunications, postal and railway markets.

As part of its mandate, the Bundesnetzagentur ensures that as many undertakings as possible can use the infrastructure in these sectors so that consumers benefit from competition and favourable prices.

The authority employs over 2,900 people at its headquarters in Bonn and Mainz and its 46 regional offices.