PRESS RELEASE: Launch of Gas Market Operator Northern Ireland

The newest organisation in the Northern Irish gas industry will be officially launched today (Wednesday 29th November) at an event in Belfast. Gas Market Operator Northern Ireland (known as GMO NI) became operational on 1st October 2017 and is the new single gas market operator, consolidating the functions that had previously been carried out by four separate gas transmission system operators (TSOs): Premier Transmission Limited (PTL), Belfast Gas Transmission Limited (BGTL), West Transmission Ltd (WTL) and GNI (UK) Limited. PTL, BGTL and WTL are all subsidiaries of Mutual Energy Limited.

The purpose of GMO NI is to provide a ‘one stop shop’ for the operation of Northern Ireland’s gas transmission market. The creation of GMO NI will streamline the interaction between gas suppliers and TSOs by creating a single point of contact for dealing with all commercial aspects of operating the transmission networks. This will not only result in lower operating costs but will also make things simpler and more efficient for the shippers who move gas through the transmission system. The TSOs remain responsible for operating and maintaining their respective transmission networks.

GMO NI will be officially launched by Northern Ireland energy regulator Jenny Pyper at a reception taking place in The Ivory Restaurant, Belfast from 4pm today. The event will be attended by a wide range of stakeholders from across the gas, and wider energy industries in Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and Great Britain.

Speaking ahead of the launch, GMO NI General Manager Mark Raphael commented: “We are pleased to today mark the official launch of GMO NI. It’s an important milestone as we have been working hard behind the scenes with our colleagues in the four TSOs for over 18 months to bring the idea of GMO NI into reality. I would like to recognise the hard work put in by the project team, and want to take this opportunity to thank the Utility Regulator Jenny Pyper and her team for all their support and encouragement. The concept of GMO NI was initially put forward by the Utility Regulator, who identified the benefits that could be captured by streamlining the operation of the gas market into one organisation. We now look forward to getting down to work and providing a reliable, high quality service to all market participants”.

Notes:

1. Further information on GMO NI visit the company website www.gmo-ni.com
2. Any queries, contact: Sandra Bolan
   Lagan Consulting
   Tel: 028 9261 9550 / 07884 074134
   Email: sandra.bolan@laganconsulting.com