

Germany: 2 oil storage and supply firms hit by cyberattack

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Two companies involved in storing and supplying oil and other materials said Tuesday they have been hit by a cyberattack that has impacted operations in Germany.

Oiltanking GmbH Group and Mabanft Group on Saturday discovered what they called a "cyber incident affecting our IT systems" and launched an investigation together with external specialists, the companies said in an emailed statement. They did not elaborate on the nature of the incident or address who might be responsible, and said they are working to understand its "full scope."

They said that Oiltanking GmbH Group—which operates storage tank terminals for oil, gas and chemicals—is still operating all terminals in all global markets. But facilities at Oiltanking Deutschland GmbH, a separate entity that operates all terminals in Germany and is part of Mabanft, are "operating with limited capacity."

Mabanft's German branch "has also declared force majeure for the majority of its inland supply activities in Germany," the statement said. The company is an importer, wholesaler and supplier of heating oil, gasoline, diesel fuel, jet fuel and other oil products.

The companies said that they are working "to restore operations to normal in all our terminals as soon as possible."

The head of Germany's IT security agency, Arne Schoenbohm, said at a conference on Tuesday that the incident was serious "but not grave," German news agency dpa reported.

Schoenbohm said that 233 filling stations largely in northern Germany had been affected, only 1.7% of the country's total. He said that it wasn't possible at some of those stations to pay by credit card or adjust prices, but that in some cases it was possible to pay using cash.

Industry officials said there was no danger to Germany's overall fuel supplies, dpa reported.

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