



**The SMDG Community of Technical Experts.**

*Promoting choice and value for all customers*

Direct Dial: 020 7901 7000  
Email: SMDG@ofgem.gov.uk

Date: 20 September 2010

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Smart Metering: SMDG Community of Technical Experts (CoTEs)**

The recently published Smart Metering Implementation Programme Prospectus<sup>1</sup> (the Prospectus) sets out proposals for how smart metering will be delivered in Great Britain. These include proposals on design requirements, central communications, data management and the approach to rollout. The development of technical specifications based on the functional requirements published within the Prospectus is one of the key points proposed within the consultation.

The support of a wide range of stakeholders is critical for the success of the Smart Metering Implementation Programme ('the Programme') given the scale and complexity of the changes required to deliver the Programme and associated benefits for consumers. Stakeholder engagement has been, and will continue to be, a vital part of the Programme. As part of this engagement the Programme has set up two Expert Groups, the Smart Metering Design Group ('SMDG') and the Data and Communications Group ('DCG') to draw on the experience of industry participants and other stakeholders.

SMDG was established to:

- provide advice to the Smart Metering Implementation Programme team (the Programme Team) on smart metering design issues raised in the Prospectus;
- provide advice to the programme team on the achievability and implications of relevant consultation proposals set out in the Prospectus;
- actively identifying any security and data privacy issues related to each of the aspects covered in the SMDG's scope of work; and
- actively identifying risks to the Programme and proposing mitigation measures.

To support the SMDG Group it is essential that it has access to timely technical input on issues arising during the course of their proceedings. In order to facilitate this input, the Programme is forming a Community of Technical Experts ('the CoTEs') for SMDG.

It is envisaged that members of the CoTE will have the ability to respond to information requests, which may cover areas such as the following:

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Pages/MoreInformation.aspx?docid=40&refer=e-serve/sm/Documentation>

- Availability and maturity of technical standards;
- Costs associated with security, smart metering and related hardware; and
- Timescales for implementation of various options.

We invite expressions of interest from suitably qualified parties who wish to receive and respond to information requests from the SMDG.

Interested parties should reply in writing/by email, confirming their interest to:

Paul Newman  
Smart Metering Team, Ofgem E-Serve  
9 Millbank, London SW1P 3GE  
020 7901 7000  
SMDG@ofgem.gov.uk

All responses should include: clear contact details (to ensure the accurate and reliable distribution of information requests), a short pen picture of your technical expertise and an indication of which of the categories below you could contribute to. All information requests will be agreed by SMDG and will be made on an ad-hoc basis.

Categories of expertise for gas and electricity meters (where applicable) will include:

- WAN communications hardware and data protocols (may overlap with DCG CoTE);
- HAN communications hardware and data protocols;
- Physical meter design;
- Logical (software / firmware) meter design;
- In-home display; and
- Any expertise that may be relevant to the work of SMDG.

We will seek to ensure that any published documentation predicated on these responses will be anonymised. The CoTEs will be encouraged to regularly check the SMDG area of the Ofgem website to provide on-going feedback as well as responding to specific requests for evidence. Information provided should be clearly labelled as to whether it is personal opinion or that of a company / organisation and whether it is regarded in any way to be "in confidence".

Any questions on this invitation should, in the first instance, be directed to SMDG@ofgem.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

**Adrian Rudd**  
**Smart Metering**  
**E-Serve**