# TRAINING IN SMART METERING TECHNOLOGIES FOR CONSTRUCTION SITE MANAGERS

# (THE COSMET PROJECT)

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# Ingeniería y Tecnología



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This work has been conducted within the framework of the research project COSMET "Training in Smart Meters for Construction Site Managers" funded by the European Commission within the Key Action 2: Strategic Partnerships in VET, reference number 2015-1-UK01- KA202-013406.



Editorial Área de Innovación y Desarrollo,S.L.

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Primera edición: marzo 2018

ISBN: 978-84-948257-5-0

DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.17993/IngyTec.2018.29

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#### **SUMMARY**

# Training in smart metering technologies for construction site managers (the Cosmet Project)

The new challenge for the traditional construction training sector is to further expand to the newly introduced field of modern environmental technologies. The current status of site managers' skills development in relevance to smart metering is not sufficiently, comprehensively and consistently supported by VET programs at the EU level. The COSMET project aims to support VET provision for site managers in smart metering addressing the needs of VET providers, learners, and the sector by offering a modular comprehensive course (MOOC) that ensure easy and free access to relevant educational material and tools.

This work sample didactic units made for the completion of a course MOOC (http://www.cosmetproject.eu/page=17/training-resources), within the European Union-funded project called COSMET which aims to support the offer of vocational training for work in relation to the smart metering heads offering a comprehensive modular course that ensures easy and free access to the material and relevant educational tools, responding as well to the needs of providers formation of FP, the students and the sector.

There are six partners that are part of this education project. Five centres formed by Professionals or Training Associations and a European University. Specifically, the consortium iscomposed by the following organisations:

\* Summit Skills (http://www.summitskills.org.uk/) is the Standard Setting Organisation for the Building Services Engineering (BSE) sector in the UK. As an employer-led and employer-owned organisation, Summit Skills' role is to act as the voice of employers of allsizes across the BSE sector on industry standards and changes to qualifications and apprenticeships, keeping up to speed with policychanges, and ensuring skills development projects meet the day-to-day needs of businesses on the ground.

Summit Skills will be the project coordinator being responsible for the administrative and financial management of the project aswell as the strategic coordination. It will also be responsible for the final delivery of the quality assurance plan, the monitoring of project quality, and for supporting the project implementation.

\* PROMEA (www.promea.gr), the Hellenic Society for the Promotion of Research and Development Methodologies, aims at thepromotion and enhancement of the knowledge society in Greece and Europe.

PROMEA will support Summit Skills to deliver the day to day coordination. As aresearch and training methodology expert, it will produce the research tools for data collection on training requirements, and willdevelop the COSMET MOOC.

\* The Polish Association of Building Managers (http://www.psmb.pl/mbaic-2/) was formed in cooperation with the Association of European Building Surveyors & Construction Experts (AEEBC) and the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) in order to educate and certificate the managerial building personnel of the Polish construction industry.

PSMB will lead the activities for the mutual recognition of project's results and establish the framework towards a common EUqualification for construction site managers in smart metering. PSMB will also validate the training and assessment material, contribute with national data collection in the identification of training and skill requirements of the sector and the definition oflearning units, and organise the national information day in Poland.

\* The Universitat Politècnica de València (http://www.upv.es/) is a public academic institution dedicated to researching andteaching in the field of construction technologies. Maintaining strong bonds with its social environment and a strong presenceabroad, it provides students all-round education related to technological skills.

UPV will be responsible for the research and development of training materials (training and assessment) in smart metering technologies and services for site managers in the form of OERs and it will contribute to the development of additional pedagogical materials for the MOOC.

\* The Vocational Training Institute of the Construction Industry in North-Rhine Westphalia (http://www.berufsbildung-bau.de/englishinformation/)is a training centre specialized in futureproof vocational training and continuing education as a non-profitinstitution for the initial and continuing training of workers in the construction industry.

BFW NRW will contribute together with the rest of the partnership to the collection of evidence on training requirements and in the development of the framework for the recognition of COSMET learning outcomes towards a smart metering for site managers EUqualification.

\* Vilnius Builders Training Centre (http://www.vsrc.lt/joomla/english/about-us.html) is a vocational institution providing vocationaleducation and training for young people (from 15 years of age) and adults (retraining courses). The Centre offers a diverse range of courses and excellent facilities in the main area of Building and Construction.

VSRC will lead the definition of the COSMET learning units by grouping the COSMET learning outcomes in modules and by defining their specifications and characteristics. It will also contribute in the development of the COSMET Open Educational Resources by delivering the trainer handbook.

This work was made possible by the contributions of all the people who are the Cosmet project teams, as well as companies and organisations of which extracted some contents of this work.

This work has been conducted within the framework of the research project COSMET "Training in Smart Meters for Construction Site Managers" funded by the European Commission within the Key Action 2: Strategic Partnerships in VET, reference number 2015-1-UK01- KA202-013406.

### **INTRODUCTION**

With over 250 million smart meters for electricity, gas, water expected to be installed in the EU by 2020, the work of construction site managers is already undergoing change, requiring appropriate up-skilling with combined, green and digital, competences, to supervise the commission, installation, and operation of smart metering solutions. The new challenge for the traditional construction training sector is to further expand to the newly introduced field of modern environmental technologies. The current status of site managers' skills development in relevance to smart metering is not sufficiently, comprehensively and consistently supported by VET programs at the EU level. The COSMET project aims to support VET provision for site managers in smart metering addressing the needs of VET providers, learners, and the sector by offering a modular comprehensive course (MOOC) that ensure easy and free access to relevant educational material and tools.

#### Course syllabus

- L1: Smart metering basics
- L2: Site management and smart meters
- L3: Smart meter interconnections
- L4: Control protocols and system integration
- L5. It platforms and smart devices

#### **L1: SMART METERING BASICS**

Description: This learning unit introduces the learner to smart metering and provides basic facts and principles that improve resource efficiency in or for buildings, covering all types of smart meters. Upon completion of this module, participants will be able to understand the fundamental principles, requirements and environmental impacts of smart meters of all types (power, gas, heat, water and dual systems) as well as to demonstrate how to interact with customers in order to ensure that the right smart metering system is chosen and used effectively.

#### Learning outcomes

Learning Unit 1: Smart metering basics	
Learning Outcome 1	Describe the fundamental principles of smart meters in or for small and large buildings.
Learning Outcome 2	List at least 3 smart metering technologies or systems for each type of smart meter (power, gas, heat, water and dual systems)
Learning Outcome 3	Explain the environmental impacts of the use of smart meters in the short- and long- term
Learning Outcome 4	State the general requirements to implement smart metering technologies in or for buildings.
Learning Outcome 5	Advise customers on the correct selection of smart metering systems
Learning Outcome 6	Advise customers on the correct use of smart metering systems.

### 1.1 Fundamental principles of smart meters

What is smart metering? Smart Metering is a system composed of monitoring equipment capable of communicating with a central data centre, receiving orders and taking action based on certain parameters; while smart meters are devices installed in or near the customer's premises, which allow bilateral communication between the utility centre and the customer. The smart meters collect data locally and transmit via a Local Area Network (LAN) to a data collector. This transmission can occur as often as 15 minutes or as infrequently as daily according to the use of the data. The collector retrieves the data and may or may not carry out any processing of the data. Data is transmitted via a Wide Area Network (WAN) to the utility central collection point for processing and use by business applications. Since the communications path is two -way, signals or commands can be sent directly to the meters, customer premise or distribution device.

What can the customer do with a smart meter? The introduction of smart metering in combination with feedback devices can change to the benefit of the customers. Consumers can be informed remotely (historical data) or locally (real-time data) on energy costs and carbon emissions, better manage their resources (electricity, water, etc.), reducing consumption and increasing efficiency and control renewable energy systems installed in the building.

**Environmental impact:** The Smart Grid offers significant reductions in environmental impact through two sources: conservation and greater renewable generation integration. Greenhouse gas emission reductions can be traced directly to Smart Grid capabilities – such as time-varying rates and customer energy management systems – offering a conservation effect.

### **1.2** Smart metering technologies and systems

What is a smart meter? A smart meter is an electronic measurement device that collects energy/water data and sends it to the service or data centre. Old meters has dials and measures the total amount of electricity used in a billing period, so customers do not have the ability to track their consumption. A meter is called smart to imply that it includes significant data processing and storage

for various purposes. Smart meters are like traditional meters but with the capacity of communication. They can be connected to other devices to offer the customer a better experience; while they can monitor and control grid activities, ensuring the efficient and reliable two-way flow of electricity and information.

**Different types of smart meter technologies and systems**: Smart Metering technologies consist of several different technical components which may vary according to the specific market condition but the majority include the following features: a) accurate measurement and transmission of electricity, gas, water or heat consumption data, and b) provision of a two-way information gateway and communication infrastructure between the meters and relevant parties and their systems. Smart Metering systems feature a number of innovations: digital technology, communications, control and better operation of networks. Smart Metering technologies will change the way that metering works completely. They provide customers with much more information on how they use energy and enable those customers to reduce their usage.

### 1.3 Smart buildings

What is a smart building? A smart building is an automated building designed, installed and operated with advanced and integrated building technology systems. The traditional way to design and construct a building is to design, install, and operate each system separately. A smart building involves the installation and use of advanced and integrated building technology systems. One designer designs or coordinates the design of all the building technology systems into a unified and construction process saving time and money. Smart buildings can reduce both the construction cost of the technology systems as well as the overall building operations' costs. The cost savings from the smart building approach results in added value to the building as evidenced by lower capital and operational expenses.

Passive vs Active energy efficiency: There are two approaches to managing energy more efficiently: passive energy efficiency and active energy efficiency. Passive homes, for instance, use insulation, heat recovery, and solar heating to achieve energy self sufficiency. However, the passive approach alone is not enough. Energy efficiency is by nature a long-term endeavour of active demand management.

### **L2: SITE MANAGEMENT AND SMART METERS**

Description: This unit covers what a site/project manager is expected to know about installation and commissioning of smart meters in or for buildings, following health and safety regulations. Upon completion of this module, learners will be able to understand the role of a site/project manager in overseeing the design, installation and commissioning of smart meters in or for new and existing buildings.

#### Learning outcomes

Learning Unit 2: Site management and smart meters		
Learning Outcome 1	Describe the responsibilities of a site/project manager.	
Learning Outcome 2	Evaluate the impact of the design of smart meters in or for new and existing buildings.	
Learning Outcome 3	Supervise the installation of smart metering technologies in small and large buildings.	
Learning Outcome 4	Coordinate the site staff in terms of smart meters installation.	
Learning Outcome 5	Organise commissioning of smart meters, according to the workplan.	
Learning Outcome 6	Identify health and safety issues during site works regarding smart meters.	

### 2.1 Project Management

Project management for implementing the smart grid: Smart grid project management services include the activities required for promoting quality, curbing costs, managing schedules and mitigating risk. A project's success can be measured by three critical factors, as shown below: performance, budget, and schedule. Ultimately, a successful project delivers benefits and satisfies customers while meeting budget and schedule constraints. Project managers need to work closely with utility clients to facilitate all phases of the project life cycle; including: a) managing the activities of the team, subcontractors and selected vendors, b) confirming deliverables, controlling scope and managing the project schedule, c) providing implementation guidance, d) delivering a quality product on schedule and within budget, and e) foreseeing and mitigating risk.

Impact of the design of smart meters for new and existing buildings - Project conditions & smart metering facility design

Health and safety: The installation of smart meters presents a wide range of potential hazards for construction site managers and workers. Some of these are general hazards that may exist in everyday life and in day-to-day plumbing and heating system work activities and others are slightly different and/or additional hazards that need to be identified to avoid injury to persons and/or damage to property. Where the hazard cannot be eliminated, the risk of injury to persons and/or damage to property must be assessed and the risk managed, including, where appropriate, the use of a safe system of work.

### L3. SMART METERS INTERCONNECTIONS

Description: This unit covers technical and organisational aspects regarding interconnection of smart meters, including integration issues with other site infrastructures. Upon completion of this module, learners will be to understand the technical issues related to installing smart metering technologies in or for new and existing buildings, and demonstrate how to prepare smart metering designs and drawings.

### Learning outcomes

Learning Unit 3: Smart meters interconnections		
Learning Outcome 1	Explain the technical issues related to installing smart metering technologies in or for new buildings.	
Learning Outcome 2	Explain the technical issues related to retrofitting of smart meters with other site infrastructure in or for existing buildings.	
Learning Outcome 3	Evaluate the impact of the interconnection of smart meters with other site infrastructure.	
Learning Outcome 4	Prepare smart metering designs, drawings.	

### 3.1 New Buildings: Installation of smart meters

Tools and technologies for "smartness": A sensor is a device that measures a physical quantity and converts it into a signal which can be read by an observer or by an instrument. For example, a mercury-in-glass thermometer converts the measured temperature into expansion and contraction of a liquid which can be read on a calibrated glass tube. A thermocouple converts temperature to an output voltage which can be read by a voltmeter. For accuracy, most sensors are calibrated against known standards. Sensors are increasingly being installed in buildings to gather data about movement, heat, light and use of space. This information allows building management systems (BMS) to make reactive – and even anticipatory and personalised – real-time alterations to a building's environment to suit its occupants. Smart electricity meters record energy use, feeding information to the provider as well as the building occupant, to help regulate energy use and lower bills. Smart meters are the first step to creating a national smart grid, where electricity will be delivered to customers on the basis of responding to dynamic demands using data.

Smart metering installation process

Smart buildings and smart people: It is important to incorporate the user into the design of buildings and allow them control over their environment. Smart buildings should be responsive to their inhabitants in order constantly to improve living conditions. Close observation of the behaviour of occupants is important when retrofitting smart technologies to existing buildings in order to provide appropriate services. Building occupants, with higher priorities such as work and family, may lack the time, knowledge or inclination to create optimally efficient environmental conditions. This is where smart building technology can step in, learning and anticipating user preferences, and altering conditions to meet user needs more precisely and flexibly than we ourselves can.

### 3.2 Retrofit existing buildings

Strategy for improving building performance: With existing properties making up 99% of building stock there are no reasons why existing buildings cannot be as smart or as green as new construction. Retrofitting an existing building can oftentimes be more cost-effective than building a new facility. Since buildings consume a significant amount of energy (40 percent of the nation's total U.S. energy consumption), particularly for heating and cooling (32 percent), it is important to initiate energy conservation retrofits to reduce energy consumption and the cost of heating, cooling, and lighting buildings. The following sections describe a strategy to successfully improve the performance of existing buildings.

Risks and challenges: The growing availability of data produced by social media, smart devices and the internet of things raises concerns about privacy, data ownership and security. Loss of user confidence or trust has implications for application usage and the quality of data provided. In addition, as building service networks become more integrated, they also become prone to cascade failures that impinge on the comfort and productivity of building occupants and at worst endanger their safety. Preventing such failures is likely to become the joint responsibility of IT and facilities departments and will require continuous investment on the part of the building owner or tenant.

World's greenest office building: The Edge, in Amsterdam, is officially the greenest office building in the world. It's also the testing ground for a radical, highly connected new way of working, where employees have no set workspaces and can dial in their individual climate and lighting preferences via an app.

### L4. CONTROL PROTOCOLS AND SYSTEM INTEGRATION

Description: This unit covers what control protocols are and how they are usually used in smart metering; and how they can be utilized to achieve system integration in or for buildings, according to national and European legislation. Upon completion of this module, learners will be able to understand how control protocols work and enable system integration, following European and national legislation regarding the installation of smart meters in or for buildings.

#### Learning outcomes

Learning Unit 4: Control protocols and system integration		
Learning Outcome 1	Describe control protocols used in smart metering.	
Learning Outcome 2	Explain how control protocols can be used in order to integrate systems.	
Learning Outcome 3	State the national legislation regarding the installation of smart meters in or for buildings and how it is applied at work.	
Learning Outcome 4	State the European legislation regarding the installation of smart meters in or for buildings and how it is applied at work.	

### 4.1 System integration

**Communication protocols:** All technology systems in a building are networks consisting of end devices that communicate with control devices or servers to monitor, manage, or provide services to the end devices. Communications between the devices occur via a set of rules or protocols. Connectivity between devices on the network is either through cable or a wireless transmitter/receiver. Smart buildings are built on open and standard communications networks which make the following characteristics possible: (1) inter-application communication; (2) efficiencies and cost savings in materials, labor, and equipment; and (3) interoperable systems from different manufacturers. Building system integration takes place at physical, network and application levels. Integrated systems share resources. This sharing of resources underpins the financial metrics and improved functionality of integrated systems. System integration involves bringing the building systems together both physically and functionally. The physical dimension obviously refers to the cabling, space, cable pathways, power, environmental controls, and infrastructure support. The functional dimension refers to an inter-operational capability, this means integrated systems provide functionality that cannot be provided by any single system, the whole is greater than the sum of the parts.

**Network model layers:** There are seven layers of network architecture (the flow of information within an open communications network), with each layer defined for a different portion of the communications link across the network. A network device or administrator creates and initiates the transmission of data at the top layer (the application layer), which moves from the highest layer to the lowest layer (physical layer) to communicate the data to another network device or user. At the receiving device the data travel from the lowest layer to the highest layer to complete the communication. When the data packet is initially sent each layer takes the data of the preceding layers and adds its own information or header to the data. On the receiving end each layer removes its information or "envelope" from the data packet.

### 4.2 European and national legislation

EU regulation and progress in the roll-out of smart meters: Member States are required to ensure the implementation of smart metering under EU energy market legislation in the Third Energy Package. This implementation is subject to a long-term cost-benefit analysis (CBA). To measure cost effectiveness, EU countries conducted cost-benefit analyses based on guidelines provided by the European Commission. A similar assessment was carried out on smart meters for gas. To date, Member States have committed to rolling out close to 200 million smart meters for electricity and 45 million for gas by 2020 at a total potential investment of  $\notin$ 45 billion. By 2020, it is expected that almost 72% of European consumers will have a smart meter for electricity while 40% will have one for gas. While cost estimates vary, the cost of a smart metering system averages between  $\notin$ 200 and  $\notin$ 250 per customer, while delivering benefits per metering point of  $\notin$ 160 for gas and  $\notin$ 309 for electricity along with, on average, 3% energy savings.

#### International and national legislation

There are three different types of regulation in Europe: a) mandatory requirements, b) indirect requirements, and c) no requirements.

- Mandatory requirements (M/R): Mandatory requirements demand implementation of energy metering, which will meet a requirement of a given frequency of meter reading (hourly, monthly etc.) for a certain group of final customers. Grouping of the final customers can be related to: a) their size, usually described by their energy consumption (kWh) or capacity (size of the main fuse in Amperes), b) their connection to a network level (feeding voltage), c) possibility of feeding into the distribution network (own power generation), d) installation of new meters or replacement of old ones, and e) the mandatory requirements usually come into force from a specific date.
- Indirect requirement (I/R): The main difference from the previous one (M/R) is that the responsible bodies are somehow encouraged to implement smart metering, even though it is not directly required by the Authorities. The encouragement can be done by authorities via economic regulation of DSOs (where relevant), which will simplify recovery of the initial investments or even direct subsidies. (It has been commented several times that it is difficult to design a regulation regime which will create equally strong incentives for all bodies [ECON 2007]). The encouragement can also have a —bottom-up|| approach, when the final customers are allowed to demand installation of smart metering from the responsible body in order to achieve more correct billing and invoicing.

No requirements (N/R): Several countries, participating in the project indicated that there are no requirements for smart metering of final customers in distribution networks. However, the final customers may be required to manually read the meters relatively often. In these countries the deregulation and unbundling processes were recently initiated and are still in progress, so there is no an obvious need for frequent metering of energy consumption.

### L5. IT PLATFORMS AND SMART DEVICES

Description: This unit covers what information about programming and comprehending feedback technologies in smart metering is required by Site Managers. Upon completion of this module, learners will be able to understand the digital and technical skills required to incorporate smart metering technologies in or for buildings and how IT and network infrastructures work and connect with smart devices.

#### Learning outcomes

Learning Unit 5: IT platforms and smart devices		
Learning Outcome 1	Describe the technical skills required for a technician to integrate smart meters of all types in or for buildings.	
Learning Outcome 2	Describe the digital skills required for a technician to integrate smart meters of all types in or for buildings.	
Learning Outcome 3	Explain how IT and network infrastructures work and connect with smart devices.	
Learning Outcome 4	Identify the appropriate IT platform to use, according to project's specific needs.	
Learning Outcome 5	Evaluate the efficiency of programming of smart meters.	

### 5.1 Skill requirements

Emerging skill needs and qualifications: Maintenance technicians have commonly been high school and vocational graduates often occupying their jobs seasonally and paid by hour. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) degrees are also needed in this line of work with more demanding and expert-focused jobs higher up the chain. Businesses are updating how they search for maintenance team candidates. The skills needed to complete daily work are taught during training and mastered over time, and since there's a major lack of STEM talent they're prioritizing leadership qualities. There aren't any advanced computer skills that are required to manage a smart facility for this position because the solutions for tracking maintenance work are pivoting towards self-service. More and more "smart facilities" are giving their technicians mobile devices for accessing work orders on the go and relying on cloud storage that automatically collects data from machines. This profession isn't done evolving yet, but the IoT trend means generating more data that's more easily accessible. That means supervisors will keep an eye on operation dashboards and there will be more minute-to-minute accountability on technicians to be more efficient. It's less about the technical skills, and more about the motivations to do the job better with more transparency.

Overview of skill requirements for site managers: Dual Fuel Smart Meter Installers are responsible for the safe installation, exchange, commission, decommission and ongoing maintenance of Smart metering systems and associated equipment and communication systems. Therefore there is a rigorous requirement for a disciplined, responsible and professional approach to work that provides customer service excellence at all times.

Skill requirements for smart metering
Knowledge

- Current Health, Safety and Environmental legislation and regulations applicable to work in the gas and power industries.
- Gas and electrical testing and assessment procedures needed to establish the condition of the equipment.
- Gas and electrical theories and procedures involved in the practical application of installation, exchange, commission, decommission and maintenance of Smart metering systems and associated equipment and communication systems.
- Relevant electrical/mechanical principles and how they are applied in work processes and procedures.
- Up to date knowledge of energy efficiency principles to be able to provide advice and guidance to the customer.
- Knowledge of Smart metering systems to be able to discuss and advise the customer

_	Knowledge of small metering systems to be able to discuss and advise the customer.
	Skills
-	Carry out a thorough and rigorous risk assessment to ensure safety of customer.
-	Use tools, equipment and personal protective equipment in a safe and appropriate manner.
-	Install, exchange, commission, decommission and ongoing maintenance of Smart metering systems, associated equipment and communication systems in accordance with industry standards.
	Take personal responsibility for maintaining safety standards and achieving job objectives

- Take personal responsibility for maintaining safety standards and achieving job objectives.
- Work with focus and clear purpose in all conditions and locations, covering business requirements, usually working alone and safely adapt working methods to reflect changes in working environments.
- Work on customer premises/property showing appropriate care, respect whilst focusing on safety.
- Use a variety of appropriate communication methods to interact with customers.
- Identify where situations or conditions are to unsafe standards and take appropriate actions.
- Achieve individual and team tasks which align to overall work objectives.

### **Competences / Behaviours**

- Identify where situations or conditions are to unsafe standards and take appropriate actions.
- Have personal wellbeing and the safety of customers and others as a priority.
- Be energy aware and deliver appropriate advice to customers on energy efficiency.
- Work effectively with people from different trades/disciplines, backgrounds and expertise to accomplish an activity safely, on time, providing confident challenge whilst meeting customer requirements.
- Deliver a polite, courteous professional service to all customers whilst safeguarding customer welfare and recognising vulnerability.
- Maintain and develop personal learning plans to continually develop knowledge and competence.

### 5.2 IT platforms

Introduction to IT platforms: IT platforms provides thousands of energy and water meters under a single console and derive useful information for logical reasoning and systematic decision making. Such platforms are engineered for industrial, commercial & residential metering applications to

provide better visibility, controlled consumption, enhanced productivity, improved efficiency and reduced operational costs. What is more, IT platforms allow utilities to monitor the power quality, access & report critical information, maximize grid efficiency and perform real-time instrumentation. Platforms allow the management and monitoring of information, which can be accessed from a single point using any device (smartphones, PC, etc.). Users and system managers can have access to different sections of the application where they can check their status, as described above.

Samsung platform: Samsung launched its Smart Home service recently, hoping to expand into home energy management. The new service aims to simplify home automation by using a single application for connecting and controlling home appliances, TVs, and mobile devices. For example, in the United States, compatible products include Samsung's Smart French Door Refrigerator, Smart Front Loading Washing Machine, all 2014 Smart TVs, Gear 2 (watch-like wearables), and smartphones with operating systems above Android 4.0.

## **L1: SMART METERING BASICS**

































# 8. FAQs

Smart meters are similar to traditional meters but with a digital display instead of an analog display.

#### How exact are smart meters?

What do smart meters look like?

Smart and traditional meters have a similar accuracy.

#### Will I still receive my bills?

Yes, all customers will still receive their energy/gas/water bills like they do currently. The in-home display is used as a complementary information resource and won't replace the regular bills.

#### Could smart meters invade my privacy?

No, because energy suppliers use only the basic data to carry out their legal task. Furthermore, grid operators and energy suppliers protect this data against unauthorised access and manipulation.

#### How do smart meters operate differently from traditional meters?

Traditional meters provide the data by manually reading and measuring total electricity consumption in a billing period (one or two months), so customers can't track their usage. Smart meters provide real-time access to your consumption and data is collected remotely.







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# 8. FAQs

#### Can I read my meter data and use it to save on my bill?

Consumers can see through the website of their electric supplier company, their usage on a daily, weekly and monthly basis (among other data) if they have installed a remote management meter. With this information you can know the distribution of energy consumption, make efficient use of it and decide the best rate according to the profile.

#### Where will the new measuring equipment be installed?

It will be installed in the same place as the current meter because the size of the new one is similar. So, it should be a quick and simple replacement.

#### When changing the meter, is it necessary to cut the power?

Any equipment change requires supply interruption for a short period of time.

#### What are the benefits of the new system?

Real data estimation readings are no longer necessary; Times of supply disruption due to breakdown will be reduced; and allow contractual changes without intervention in the meter room.

#### Can smart meters combust?

No. As they conform to EU standards there isn't any risk of fire or explosion.








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**L2: SITE MANAGEMENT AND SMART METERS** 





















## **L3: SMART METER INTERCONNECTIONS**



















**L4: CONTROL PROTOCOLS AND SYSTEM INTEGRATION** 
























# FAQs

## I'm on prepay and access to my meter is not always easy. Can smart meters help?

Yes. A smart meter with a prepay function, means you don't need a different kind of meter for prepay and you'll no longer need to access your meter. You'll be able to see how much credit you have left via your in-home display and top-up in a number of ways, including online; via telephone; text; smartphone app or in person at a local shop/outlet. Credit will be automatically added to your account without any need to put a key or card back into your meter.

## Will the in-home display cost me anything to run?

Less than £1 a year in electricity.

# Will the in-home display only receive information from my meter?

Yes, your in-home display is paired with your smart meter by your smart meter installer, so it only shows information from your own smart meter not a neighbours so obviously you won't be able to take it and use it in another house.







[1] Alex Wilson. **"Smart electricity grids and meters in the EU Member States"**. Members' Research Service, September 2015.

[2] James Sinopoli. "Smart Building Systems for Architects, Owners, and Builders". Elsevier, 2010.

[3] Departament d'Enginyeria Electrònica (DEE) - Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC).

 [4] Report from the Commission. "Benchmarking smart metering deployment in the EU-27 with a focus on electricity".
Commission Staff Working Document, June 2014.



**L5: IT PLATFORMS AND SMART DEVICES** 











There are some requirements that Smart Meter installers must have for a disciplined, responsible and professional approach, because they are responsible for the work:

COSMET

Skills

- Use tools, equipment and personal protective equipment in a safe and appropriate manner.
- Install, exchange, commission, decommission and ongoing maintenance of Smart metering systems, associated equipment and communication systems in accordance with standards.
- Use a variety of appropriate communication methods to interact with customers and others.
- > Integrating television, lighting, computers and security systems in residential networks.
- Work effectively with people from different trades/disciplines, backgrounds and expertise to accomplish an activity safely, on time, providing confident challenge whilst meeting customer requirements.
- To maintain and develop personal learning plans to continually develop knowledge and competence in order to be able to provide advice and guidance to the customer.

















## Could my in-home display be interfered by other wireless devices?

It's possible if wireless devices operate on the same signal frequency, but your data will always be protected. If this happens, you can see where it works better trying to use your in-home display in different positions or moving it closer to the meter.

### Will I still be sent energy bills?

Yes. Your in-home display is for information only. You will still receive regular energy bills in the same way you do now, whether that's in the post or online. Only now they'll be accurate, without you having to submit a manual meter reading. Depending on your energy supplier, you may also receive some energy efficiency advice.

#### How secure are smart meters?

The smart meter security system is very secure. Security has been at the heart of the whole smart meter rollout programme from its very inception and right through the design process. Smart meters have their own closed, dedicated communications system that employs technology widely used by, for example, the banking industry. Smart meters have been designed with top cyber security experts, including the government and GCHQ, to ensure that security best practice has been incorporated at every stage.









#### Will in-home displays work for people who have disabilities or impairments?

In-home displays are being designed for people who have disabilities or impairments, including sight, dexterity, perception and memory. Following extensive consultation with the RNIB, an audio enabled in-home display will be available by early 2017.

#### How is my personal data kept safe when I have a smart meter?

Your name, address and bank details are never stored on the meter, only the energy you use. And even this data is transmitted safely, using a dedicated and secure wireless network (not the internet).

No third parties will be able to access your energy usage data without your consent. For example, you might want to share your information with price comparison sites in order to get the best deal, but you will need to give your consent for this.

#### Can my energy supplier use my data for marketing purposes?

Your supplier will not use any data from your smart meter for sales and marketing purposes, unless you've given them permission to do so.





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