



THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BRITISH ELECTROTECHNICAL INDUSTRY

Margaret Coaster
Smart Metering Team
Ofgem E-Serve
9, Millbank
London
SW1P 3GE

Sent via email to smartmetering@ofgem.gov.uk

Smart Metering Implementation Programme – Prospectus – BEAMA Response

Date: 27 September 2010

Dear Sirs

Please find attached BEAMA's response to those questions from the Prospectus and Supporting documents required by 28th September 2010.

Thank for allowing the opportunity for BEAMA and members to comment on the Prospectus – it is a very important part of the route towards the roll out of smart metering – an objective which we fully support. We have discussed at length the questions raised in the prospectus and have given our responses in as clear and concise manner as possible. As with all large commercial and technical challenges there are a number of varying views as to how objectives can be achieved, and the roll out of smart metering is no exception. We have answered the majority of questions posed where we have reached consensus amongst the members. These will form the basis of our inputs into the Smart Metering Design Group activities until Jan 2011. We have recently offered to this group, that BEAMA can facilitate the presentation of specific technical solutions to meet the agreed smart metering functionalities and objectives.

The process outlined in the prospectus is, in our view, looking for solutions for an early start for smart metering, an objective which we support. However, we are conscious that there are longer term issues which could change the overall requirements and functionalities for smart metering:

The plan for Central communications in 2014 – where possible solutions put forward by BEAMA members will be compatible with whatever commercial and technical model is agreed upon and implemented to cover central communications. In addition some members have specific opinions on the architectures needed to achieve smart metering objectives, with a central communications model. These will be presented as part of the SMDG program.

The functionalities required for smart grids – all BEAMA smart metering members recognise that the roll out of smart metering is part of a wider objective of delivering an overall smart grid for the UK. The responses given the Prospectus reflect the current understanding of the Government's current requirements, but all members believe that further functionalities will be required from smart metering in the future, as the smart grid evolves.

The future electrification of heating and transport – members understand that in the future there are likely to be significant changes to the way in which heating systems work, the electrification of transport, and the expected expansion of local renewables. All of these could require differing requirements from smart metering. Where possible the responses and the specific technical solutions presented by members will cover these – but as much of this future is unclear we cannot provide certainty in these areas at this time.

THE BRITISH ELECTROTECHNICAL AND ALLIED MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION
WESTMINSTER TOWER • 3 ALBERT EMBANKMENT • LONDON SE1 7SL.
TELEPHONE: + 44 207 793 3000 • FAX: + 44 207 793 3003 • EMAIL: info@beama.org.uk
WEBSITE: <http://www.beama.org.uk>
BEAMA LIMITED registered in ENGLAND • NO. 84313



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Members of the BEAMA Smart Metering Association are:

Elster
Echelon
Itron
Landis+Gyr
Sagemcom
Secure
Sensus

This group of meter and systems manufacturers provide approximately 95% of the meters in use in the UK today.

Our opportunity to be involved in SMDG and its various sub-groups is appreciated. We feel that our input is useful to the groups, and pertinent. Although the majority of functional requirements have been discussed and finalised, at the time of compiling our response we have not seen the final output from SG1. We have therefore attached our submission to that group made on 21 September 2010.

Should you require any explanation of the comments made in our response please do not hesitate to contact the writer.

Yours faithfully

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[Redacted contact information]

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