

ICoSS Response to Smart Metering Prospectus

The ICoSS Group welcomes the publication of the joint DECC/Ofgem Smart Meter Prospectus detailing the government's plans for rolling out smart meters to every home and business in Great Britain.

ICoSS members are currently working with Industrial and Commercial customers to deliver substantial energy efficiency savings using Business Smart technology (including SMS and Internet AMR solutions). The benefits which this Business Smart Metering solution can bring are significant, with 40% of the expected carbon savings that can be realised by Smart Metering coming from this sector.

In March 2010 ICoSS published a position paper that noted that to capture the benefits of today's Business Smart market, DECC & Ofgem needed to confirm four high level principles. These were that:

1. a CCP (DCC) regime will not be obligated on the I&C Sector;
2. the current market regime for the I&C gas market is not altered significantly;
3. the current Business Smart solution meets their objectives; and
4. the upgrade to the current settlement systems operated by the transporters provide the capacity needed by the Business Smart sector to ensure maximum rollout of the next generation of metering.

The Smart Metering Prospectus has clearly delivered on the first two items, providing significant benefits to consumers and encouraging the competitive Business Smart market.

While it recognises that significant questions remain on the nature and scope of the DCC and specification of the Business Smart product, ICoSS believes that the DECC/Ofgem Smart Metering Prospectus has moved the Smart metering debate forward significantly. ICoSS therefore welcomes the DECC/Ofgem Smart Metering Prospectus and looks forward to further productive dialogue with DECC/Ofgem in the future.