

Smart Metering Prospectus

Questions for 28th September

Hewlett Packard Response



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1. INTRODUCTION

Hewlett Packard has been participating in the recent activities in smart metering within the UK with great enthusiasm. As a major supplier of similar robust and truly scale-able services and software solutions to Utilities and Telcos throughout the world, we believe that Hewlett Packard has the potential to play a major role within the programme and we look forward to the next step of the procurement process for the DCC.

As a member of the SBGI trade-body, Hewlett Packard has worked closely in recent weeks on the prospectus questions with the SBGI Data and Communications and Metering sub groups. Consequently we are happy that our views regarding the detail of the questions contained within the prospectus, and the associated supporting documentation, is included within the SBGI response.

With regard to an over-arching view to Questions dead-lined for 28th September, Hewlett Packard would like to take the opportunity to make some additional points documented in the following section.

2. Answers to questions

- *Question-6* - Do you have any comments on the functional requirements for the smart metering system we have set out in the Functional Requirements Catalogue?*

IHDs – the view could be taken that IHDs would be the smart-interface of choice for only a minor section of consumers. A laptop zigbee ‘dongle’ (to view meter data stored within the HAN/WAN module or meter), a web based customer-portal or an iphone/ipad ‘app’ (to view data stored centrally) will probably be preferred by most. IHDs carry a cost and additional electrical load – both, arguably, unnecessarily. Hewlett Packard would suggest that mandating that Suppliers offer an IHD to all customers should be reconsidered [as long as an alternate suitable display option is available to the customer]

- *Question-18* - Do you have any suggestions on how the roll-out might be brought forward?*

Gas Meter – Adapt v Replace – Ultimately, all gas meters will be replaced to provide the remote motorised-valve disconnect/reconnect function. However, a speedier (and possibly single-visit) roll-out might be achieved by allowing retrofit of HAN modules (such as Xemtec) to existing gas meters with considerable operational life-time remaining. Such devices would provide the absolute reads required (i.e they do not rely on pulsing from an R5 etc).