



SMART METERING (GB) - OVERVIEW



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Smart Metering Explained

What is the Data and Communications Company?

The Data and Communications Company (DCC) is a new licensed entity responsible for centrally managing communication of data to and from smart meters in the domestic market sector across GB. This new central body will play a pivotal role at the heart of the energy industry and is responsible for the procurement and contract management of metering data and communications services. The DCC will provide a two-way communications channel between smart meters and a central communications hub.

The meters will be for both gas and electricity and connected in a Home Area Network along with an In Home Display (IHD).

The project will be one of the largest and most complex changes undertaken by the energy industry, and will require the almost complete renewal of the stock of electricity and gas meters for domestic and smaller non-domestic customers.

What is a smart meter?

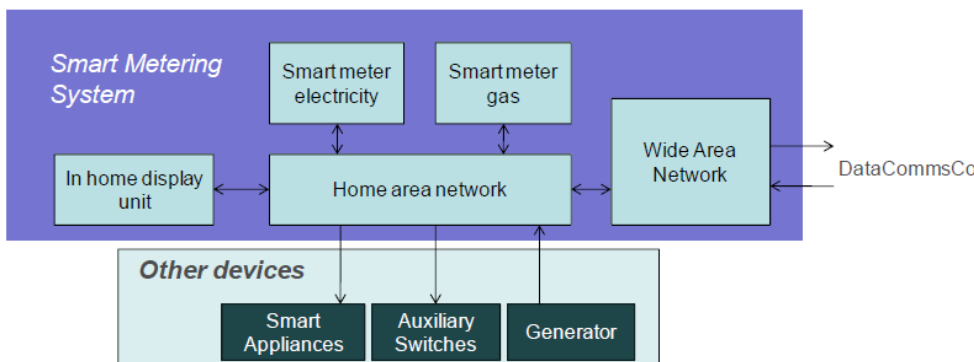
Smart meters are the next generation of electricity and gas meters, they allow suppliers to remotely record customers' gas and electricity usage, and let consumers see how much energy they are using.

The UK Government is committed to every home in Great Britain having a smart energy meter installed to help deliver the UK's energy security and low carbon future.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has delineated the overall strategy and timetable for the smart metering programme, with the mass rollout due to commence in the second quarter of 2014 and to be completed by 2019.

The implementation of smart metering will see 53 million smart meters installed, involving visits to over 30 million households and businesses across the country.

How smart metering works



The Smart Metering systems comprises of: a smart gas meter; a smart electricity meter and an In Home Display.

The communications interfaces comprise of the Home Area Network (HAN) and Wide Area Network (WAN).

The HAN provides the communication between the meters, communications hubs, IHDs and any load control devices within the premises. The WAN provides the communication between the premise and the DCC.

Acknowledged as Crown Copyright;
Source: Ofgem; Smart Metering Implementation Programme; Functional Requirements Catalogue



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The Smart Metering Programme

The smart metering programme commenced in 2009 and is due to be completed in 2019. The programme defined by DECC consists of the following 3 phases.

Phase 1 – Policy Design (2009 Q4 - 2011 Q1)

The key objective for the policy design phase was to reach robust policy positions / conclusions and develop plans for the implementation of smart metering.

This was successfully concluded and a coherent and integrated set of policy conclusions has been reached.

Phase 2 – Foundation (2011 Q2 - 2014 Q1)

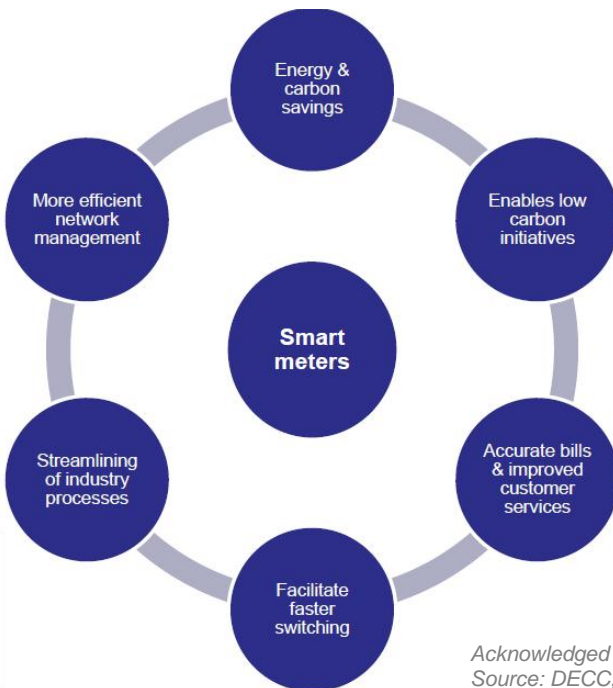
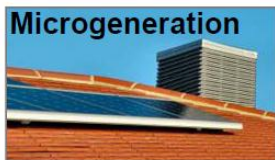
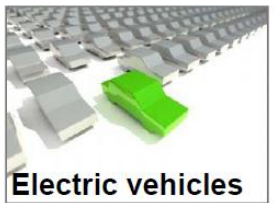
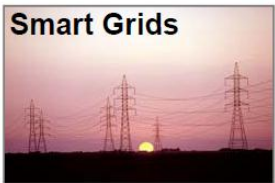
The rollout of smart meters will be conducted in two phases, commencing with a 'foundation stage' where the Government will work with industry, consumer groups and other relevant stakeholders to assess and construct the necessary systems, whilst also ensuring consumer engagement and delivering energy saving benefits. During the foundation stage, the Government will also launch the Data and Communications Company (DCC) which will offer the data and communication services required for the smart metering system.

Phase 3 – Mass Roll Out (2014 Q2 – Onwards)

The main objective of this phase is to achieve the mass rollout by suppliers of smart meters to the programme timescales in a safe, secure, efficient and effective way, which delivers the programme business case and protects the interests of consumers.

This phase sees the DCC take on new tasks in the form of meter registration services. This involves consequential adjustments to industry responsibilities and businesses processes, and to the supporting regulatory framework.

A Smart Great Britain



Benefits of smart metering

- Expected net benefit of **7.3 billion GBP** over the next two decades
- Improved energy management
- Accurate management reporting and energy bill
- Interoperability
- Flexible tariffs that measure consumption over set time periods
- Capability for selling energy back to the supplier which will facilitate microgeneration technology

Acknowledged as Crown Copyright; Source: DECC, Smart Metering Implementation Programme; Launch of the Prospectus

More Information

Contact us to find out more about how Lowri Beck can support your business in becoming Smart

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