



A guide to the technologies and applications of Lowri Beck Services

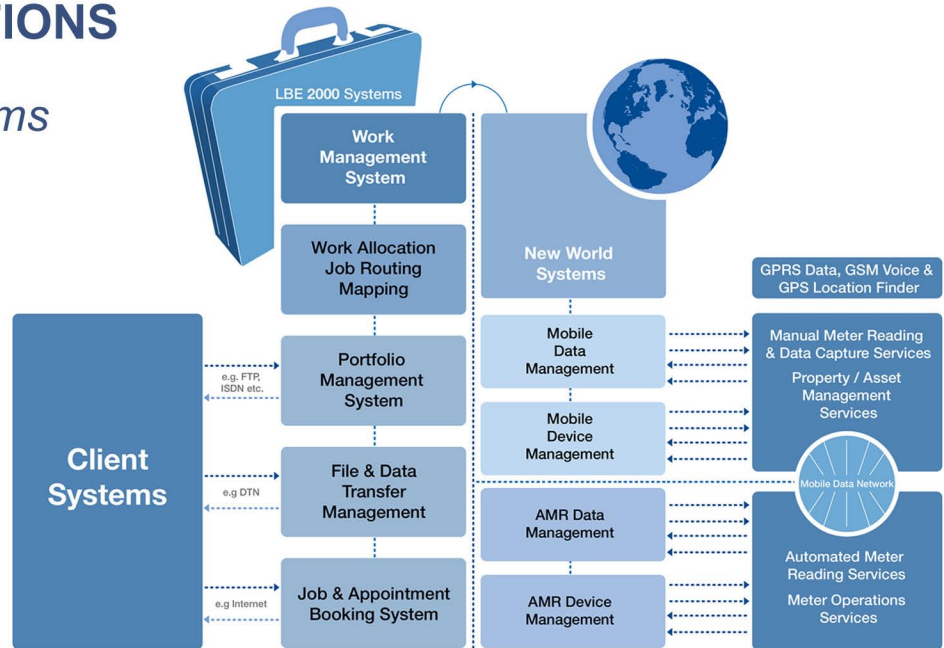
Service Information Sheet

METERING SOLUTIONS

The LBE 2000 Systems

The details of the sites, properties and meters are provided to us in an agreed format or via an agreed file transfer arrangement.

Lowri Beck then utilise that information within our LBE 2000 Systems to initialise the creation of the Portfolio Management and Work Management Systems.



PORTFOLIO MANAGER The Portfolio Manager provides the means to manage cyclical data i.e. data which has been collected about a site, customer or asset on a cyclical basis e.g. monthly, quarterly, six-monthly, annually. The Portfolio Manager retains the static data and frequency at which visits should be made and is able to generate / schedule data collection automatically.

WORK ALLOCATION The Work Allocation module is able to allocate work on an automated basis, based upon a number of predetermined criteria such as the field staff availability, skill set, job priority, location of operative, date/time specific appointments. Work may also be manually allocated or recalled at any time, be it real-time or batch.

JOB ROUTING The Job Routing module provides for work allocated to field staff to be sorted and ordered in the most optimum order. This provides added value by reducing mileage costs, paperwork and most of all maximise productivity of each operative by being able to measure results from a pre-determined plan. Directional data is also available to be generated for download to a mobile device with the ability to be represented geographically on a street map.

MAPPING The Mapping module provides the ability to geographically represent work on a map to provide a view of density as well as to aid the allocation process. Mapping information can be provided both at the data management centre as well as on the handheld devices.

JOB BOOKING Any ad hoc job requirements can be booked using the Job Booking module. Additionally an on-line facility allows you to directly book an ad hoc meter reading job using the Job Booking module which is viewed over a password protected secure site on the web.

APPOINTMENT BOOKING The Appointment Booking module provides for scheduled and un-scheduled work to be allocated a time slot over the web. Field staff availability can be viewed together with the ability to amend or cancel bookings.



THE NEW WORLD SYSTEMS

MAN-MOBILE-DATA CAPABILITY

The introduction of an integrated man-mobile-data capability, with the New-World Mobile Data Suite, enables the use of a variety of different handheld devices dependent on the work activity to be undertaken. It also enables the use of various communication media, appropriate for the type of work being performed. The versatile IT systems and expertise ensure that customer data can be handled and delivered in a format and timescale that meet individual specifications.

DIRECTLY EMPLOYED FIELD METER READING & INSPECTION STAFF

The nationwide network of directly employed field meter reading and inspection staff use real-time handheld terminals with in-built GPRS/GSM communications devices, so that staff can be contacted whenever required during the working day, and also allowing urgent jobs to be transmitted to them and received back from them immediately on completion. Lowri Beck also utilise sophisticated routing and mapping software to create the most effective route possible for each day's work.

HANDHELD UNITS & PDAS

Lowri Beck Services Handheld Units & PDA solution now takes advantage of the .NET framework, enabling the use of a wide range of terminals dependent on customer requirements. This is an example of how we have used technology to increase flexibility, while improving core operational efficiency. Following the success of this implementation the integration of GPS facilities is being included.

We have a range of ruggedised and non-ruggedised devices operating Pocket PC or Windows Mobile 5 software. They have an integrated GPRS / GSM radio for real time data transfer and also acts as a telephone, and can incorporate probes, GPS and scanners etc.

AUTOMATED METER READING

With the introduction of automated meter reading services Lowri Beck is able to offer an alternative to the manually read metering solution integrated within our overall systems and solutions, see our Service Information guide to Automated Meter Reading.

KEY POINTS

- Independent Service Provider for meter reading & data capture services.
- UK nationwide service.
- Provide metering services to the Energy Supply companies & Water companies.
- Provide utility data to energy brokers / management organisation.
- Data management and data transfer meeting electricity and gas industry standard protocols.
- Tailored data capture, presentation and transfer of data arrangements available.
- Tailored service type and service level agreements.
- Tailored metering solutions.