



## News Release

# **ETSI signs Memorandum of Understanding with the European Smart Metering Industry Group (ESMIG)**

*ETSI Headquarters, Sophia Antipolis, France – 15 May 2009*

A collaboration has been agreed between ETSI (the European Telecommunications Standards Institute) and the European Smart Metering Industry Group (ESMIG), that is expected to accelerate the deployment of "smart meters" in Europe. The move is expected to bring many benefits to utilities and their customers, including greater accuracy, reduced costs, improved consumer choice and ecological benefits through better management of natural resources.

The metering market is currently undergoing considerable change and, as smarter metering systems become available, they are being viewed as the future for utility metering, the term smart meaning "intelligent" and "connected". Smart Metering entails the exchange of various types of data between different entities and this implies communication channels of various forms. ETSI's expertise in specifying interoperable telecommunication and radiocommunication technologies and systems, coupled with ESMIG's commitment supporting and contributing to a pan-European deployment of Smart Metering, promises a harmonized, cost-effective and fully interoperable roll-out of this new approach to utility metering.

The commitment of the two organizations is backed by a European Commission standardization mandate (Mandate M/441) related to the development of an open system architecture for utility meters involving communication protocols.

Various technological solutions are foreseen for Smart Metering: they include technologies that are the subject of established and evolving work within ETSI, such as wireless short-range communications, power line communications (i.e. the transport of data over electricity supply networks), mobile communications and communications on wireless sensors networks. ETSI's vast experience in specifying communication protocols for many different types of network, serving diverse types of data and security criteria, is also highly relevant to this initiative. In addition, ETSI brings considerable expertise in specifying and assuring interoperability between systems – an essential requirement for the vast foreseen deployment of Smart Metering. ETSI will also draw on its role in defining radio spectrum requirements for new communication applications within Europe, since a need for more spectrum for short-range radio devices to support metering has already been identified.

The Memorandum of Understanding between ETSI and ESMIG foresees the exchange of information, including working documents and specifications, between the organizations, joint meetings,

conference and workshops, with the ultimate goal of supporting an effective pan-European deployment of smart meters as well as the legislative framework for it.

– ENDS

## Notes for Editors



### **About ETSI**

ETSI produces globally-applicable standards for Information and Communications Technologies (ICT), including fixed, mobile, radio, converged, broadcast and internet technologies and is officially recognized by the European Commission as a European Standards Organization. ETSI is an independent, not-for-profit association whose 766 member companies and organizations, drawn from 63 countries across 5 continents worldwide, participate directly in its work.

For more information about ETSI please visit: [www.etsi.org](http://www.etsi.org)



### **About ESMIG**

ESMIG's members are the leading companies in the European Smart Metering market: meter manufacturers, communications solution suppliers, IT companies, system integrators. ESMIG provides advice and expertise to key stakeholders, such as the European Union institutions, EU Member States governments and authorities, regulators, consumers and utilities on all aspects related to Smart Metering including electricity, gas, water, and heat measurement

ESMIG encourages the relevant industries to take a key role in rolling out and making adequate use of Smart Metering technology consistently in each of the 27 Member States of the EU and in securing the maximum benefit from the new technology for users, utilities and the environment.

For more information about ESMIG please visit: [www.esmig.eu](http://www.esmig.eu)

### **About Smart Metering**

Traditional utility metering of electricity, gas, water and heat is a costly process that offers little flexibility and yields poor quality data. Smart Metering uses a variety of modern technologies to perform the task, permitting automated reading and data collection on consumption and providing two-way information and communication channels between the meter and relevant parties, including the consumers and the utilities. The available information may include detailed current and historical consumption data, including costs and related carbon emission data, delivered in real time. The result will be greater consumer choice, better management and efficiency of energy use, reduced operating costs for the utilities and ultimately the introduction of advanced energy services.