

Elster's Partner Network Delivers Energy Conservation Program for Hydro-Québec

Program launched in December 2008

Raleigh, North Carolina, January 29, 2009. Elster, a global leader in smart metering and smart grid system solutions, today announced the successful installation of a demonstration program to better manage Québec's energy resources.

Elster's EnergyAxis[®] system provides the backbone for Hydro-Québec's voluntary residential "Time it Right" program to encourage customers to reduce electricity consumption during peak periods. Elster and its technology partners Aztech Associates, supplying in-home displays, and Olameter, supplying its Smart Meter network data management solution, inView[®], and ASP data collection services, have provided Hydro-Québec with the total solution needed to implement a time of use (TOU) and critical peak pricing (CPP) program.

Elster's EnergyAxis smart metering system will serve as the foundation for the "Time it Right" project collecting interval usage data daily for program participants. Aztech Associates' innovative in-home display supplies a wireless connection to Elster's smart meters to provide usage and cost information during off-peak, on-peak and critical-peak times.

The system also transmits text messages to the in-home displays to alert customers of critical peak pricing events. Program participants have been presented with nine critical peak pricing events to date. Olameter's data management platform, inView[®], provides Smart Meter network monitoring, control, and integration capabilities. inView[®] manages Hydro-Québec's 15-minute load profile data, monthly and daily register data, status and other data collected by the EnergyAxis System, and provides Hydro-Québec with a wide array of operational information enabling them to monitor and operate their Smart Meter network.

Christian Simard, Hydro-Québec's director for metering and meter reading said, "These new conservation technologies respond to the Energy Board's request to test new electricity rates that could help customers manage their electricity bill with more efficiency. This pilot project and time-of-use rates are a way of improving the management of Québec's energy resources.

"This project will help determine if these solutions are effective in practice. We are pleased that Elster, through its Partner Network, has created the solution to offer our customers an opportunity to participate in this demonstration program."

"We laud the participation of these members of Elster's Partner Network on developing this successful conservation program," said Jack Robertson, vice president and general manager, Elster Metering, Canada. "By identifying and providing opportunities for business partnerships to develop better energy management and energy efficiency solutions we have effectively helped Québec customers with new tools to better manage their consumption."



The program was launched in December 2008 and will run through 2010. Residents from four cities in Québec were given the opportunity to participate in the program. If the “Time it Right” program is conclusive, such a TOU rate structure could be offered as an option to all Hydro-Québec residential customers.

###

For further information, contact:

Gabrielle Puccio, Director, Corporate Communications
Elster, 208 S. Rogers Lane, Raleigh, NC 27610, 919 250 5413
Email: gabrielle.puccio@us.elster.com

About Elster

Elster, a global leader in smart metering and smart grid solutions, has delivered over 1.5 million smart metering devices worldwide with systems located in North America, Europe, Central America, Australia, New Zealand and the Caribbean. Elster smart metering system solutions provide utilities with energy conservation capabilities via demand response programs, smart grid applications, and operational efficiencies resulting in significant value creation across the utility enterprise. Elster has over 7,500 staff and operates globally in North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Middle East, and Asia. www.elster.com.

About Aztech Associates Inc.

Aztech achieved international acclaim after developing a remote tracking system which allowed clients in industry to monitor the precise location and status of railway cars. Aztech then expanded the system for the oil and gas and shipping industries to monitor the temperature of refrigerated cargo containers and the amount of fuel in an individual truck or tank. Three years ago Aztech began to specialize in the design of energy-conserving equipment for the home. Aztech’s portable and attractive In-Home Display device is the first of its kind approved by Elster, and is capable of communicating directly with an ever-increasing number of meters. With its light pattern feature and LCD screen, homeowners can view their electricity usage and cost at a glance. This empowers families to choose the best time to run energy-guzzling appliances, thus saving money and helping to protect the environment.

About Olameter

As a leading independent meter service company, Olameter offers a full range of telemetry and back-office systems for electric, gas, and water utilities. Currently serving over 100 clients across North America, Olameter provides AMI system monitoring & integration (via their inView[®] application), ASP data collection, workforce management (via their onService application), consumer web-presentment, meter data management, integration consulting, ASP billing/CIS applications, call centre and back-office operations support, meter reading and field services (including meter installations), and meter service and sales. Olameter solutions are designed to maximize business returns through a proven implementation model that minimizes impact on the client, and assists in achieving deliverables such as improved cash flow, reduced costs, and enhanced customer loyalty.



About Hydro-Québec

Hydro-Québec generates, transmits and distributes electricity. Its sole shareholder is the Québec government. Using mainly renewable generating options, in particular hydroelectricity, it supports the development of wind energy through purchases from independent power producers. It also conducts research in energy-related fields such as energy efficiency.