



Unifying solutions
for the **Smart Grid**



Welcome to **Connections**, your source for up-to-date EnergyAxis news and information

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U.S. Congressman Brad Miller Visits Elster's Raleigh, NC Facility



With a focus on job creation and clean energy technology, Representative Miller watched a demo of Elster's EnergyAxis smart grid system and toured its smart meter manufacturing facility on November 23. Elster is an economic bright spot in today's economy by continuing to hire workers and manufacture locally, while exporting its products and systems globally. See a television clip from Congressman Miller's visit at www.energyaxis.com

Elster Signs Four New EnergyAxis System Customers

Four utilities recently selected EnergyAxis as their smart metering and smart grid system solution. The Town of Danvers, MA will deploy EnergyAxis for both electric and water services and the Borough of South River, NJ will roll-out EnergyAxis to its electric customers. In Canada, Tillsonburg Hydro and West Coast Huron Energy will deploy the EnergyAxis system for their electric service territories.

EnergyICT to provide MDM platform for Oklahoma Gas and Electric

Oklahoma Gas and Electric(OG&E) has selected Elster's EnergyICT subsidiary to provide its scalable EIServer Meter Data Management Solution (MDMS) for OG&E's Positive Energy Smart Grid program to be deployed in Norman, Oklahoma in 2010. EIServer meets OG&E's comprehensive business and technical requirements for the program and will manage automatic metering infrastructure (AMI) data, complex billing rates, provide validation, estimation, editing (VEE) and interfaces to third party systems. To read more about EnergyICT and EIServer go to www.energyict.com.

DOMLEC Deploys EnergyAxis for Prepayment and System Loss Reduction

Dominica Electricity Services Ltd (DOMLEC) is launching EnergyAxis on Dominica—the “Nature Island” of the Caribbean. Following a successful pilot in 2008, DOMLEC will now deploy the EnergyAxis® smart grid system across the entire island as part of its system modernization efforts. The project is the first EnergyAxis System in the Caribbean to integrate prepayment technology with Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) capabilities and is part of DOMLEC’s continuing efforts to reduce system losses. Read more at www.energyaxis.com.

Update on ARRA Stimulus Grants

On November 19, 2009, the Department of Energy (DOE) held an information meeting with Smart Grid Investments Grant awardees to explain how the process will move forward. The DOE plans to sign 80% of the contracts by December 25. During the discussions, numerous questions came up that didn't have ready answers, such as which jobs to count when submitting project reports (DOE said “only utility ones” which likely under counts the actual impact of these projects); whether smart grid grants were taxable; how to handle property liens created from Federal funding; what to do about intellectual property, and more.

The DOE has significantly increased reporting requirements by adding technology metrics and has asked that these metrics be reported monthly rather than quarterly as is required for reporting on project management factors. These metrics may be found in the DOE report Guidebook for ARRA Smart Grid Program Metrics and Benefits dated November 20, 2009. The DOE left the meeting with a list of questions to answer; responses to these may be included as FAQs on the DOE website.

On November 24, 2009, the DOE announced 32 winners of a total of \$620M for smart grid demonstration projects. These projects include: large scale energy storage, smart meters, distribution and transmission monitoring devices, and various other smart grid technologies. The awarding of these grants appears to exhaust the stimulus bill budget for demonstration grants in the same fashion as the SGIG total of \$3.4B was exhausted in the October 27, 2009 SGIG awards announcement.

Elster is advocating that \$2.5B in unused Troubled Asset Relief Program funds be allocated to smart grid projects that were not funded in Tranche 1 of the SGIG program and/or slated for submittal in Tranche 2 that has been cancelled.

Look for additional updates in future newsletters as we continue to monitor the process.

Every Watt Counts

The benefits of smart metering promise to deliver unparalleled return on investment to utilities. However, depending on the watt burden characteristics of the smart meter and how the smart metering system is used, these benefits can quickly be eroded.

Utilities have long been concerned with the watt burden of meters. Using national averages one watt of burden across one million meters requires an additional 8,760 MWhs of power per year and creates an additional 5,801 metric tons of carbon dioxide, 31 metric tons of methane, and 58 metric tons of nitrous oxide emissions per year. Elster has developed a new whitepaper that examines the hidden cost and environmental impact of smart meters and recommends possible solutions to address the issue.

Read the whitepaper at www.energyaxis.com. Download our [“burden calculator”](#) to determine the impact on your utility.

Upcoming Events

Nominate your EnergyAxis project for an award!

Elster is launching an annual awards program to recognize the “best” EnergyAxis projects each year. Award Categories include: Innovation, Customer Service, Results, Collaboration, and Green projects.

Utilities and Elster partners are eligible to participate and can nominate themselves or work with an Elster “sponsor.” Completed nomination forms must be submitted by January 15. Winners will be selected by an outside panel of experts and announced at the 2010 EnergyAxis User Conference.

For more information on the nomination process, contact [Barbara Lehenbauer](#) or visit www.energyaxis.com.



2010 EnergyAxis User Conference, February 21-25, 2010, Charleston, SC

Make your plans now to attend! Check out our agenda and register today at www.energyaxis.com

Relevant sessions for everyone in your utility! The Smart Grid touches every aspect of a utility and we have structured the 2010 EnergyAxis user conference to focus on delivering the smart grid. Whether you are in executive management, customer service, corporate IT, communications, distribution operations, field services, or a day-to-day user, we are certain you will find this year’s conference extremely worthwhile.

Keynote speakers this year include Ms. Tammy McLeod, Chief Customer Officer from Arizona Public Service and Dr. Jerry Mechling, Author of “Eight Imperatives for Leaders in a Networked World” and lecturer in public policy at the Harvard Kennedy School.

In addition to sessions on EnergyAxis 7.0, the users conference will cover topics such as security, energy efficiency and demand response, as well as grid modernization and distribution automation solutions. Utility case studies will include voltage conservation, change management, IT roadmaps, prepayment, service disconnects, multi-utility deployments, and others.

New workshops. More training. In addition to EA_MS (MAS) training on Thursday, Feb 25, there will be hands-on workshops for analyzing WAN options, gatekeeper (collector) site selection and installation, network troubleshooting, outage management, gas module installation, and others. Plan to stay an additional day for the in-depth information that can make a difference to your deployment.

Technology demos and exhibits. Exhibits this year will emphasize demonstrations that showcase how each solution integrates with EnergyAxis to help solve the challenges utilities face. With more exhibits than ever, you can discover a wide range of smart grid solutions that will deliver real value to your utility today.

Share the experience. Bring a guest and register him or her for events like golf, tours of historic Charleston, and a great hotel in the heart of the old town shopping and tourist area.

Questions? Contact [Barbara Lehenbauer](#) or [Bernadette Corrigan](#).