



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

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Security for the Smart Grid: The Rest of the Story

Smart Grid security continues to generate considerable controversy in the popular press. A recent article questioning Smart Grid security written by Jordan Robertson of the Associated Press (AP), quotes a senior security analyst with InGuardians Inc.

Elster has been collaborating with InGuardians and other responsible security researchers for several years stemming from mutual efforts to make the Smart Grid more secure. Our colleagues at InGuardians were not completely satisfied with the way the article read. To tell the rest of the story, InGuardians posted a [public statement](#). Elster's technical response to specific points from the article is available on the EnergyAxis Community forum. In addition, Elster's new white paper entitled "[EnergyAxis System: Security for the Smart Grid](#)" can be downloaded from www.energyaxis.com.

Tallahassee Launches First Combined Electric, Water, Gas Smart Grid



ENERGY SMART PLUS
SAVE ENERGY SAVE WATER SAVE MONEY

You can see the excitement growing over the nation's first combined electric, water and natural gas Smart Grid. Just search on "tallahassee smart grid" for a dozen recent web articles and blogs about this unique Smart Grid project in north Florida.

Since laying the groundwork for the project in 2005, long before the Smart Grid concept took off nationally, the City of Tallahassee has completed the installation of 200,000 EnergyAxis Smart Meters. Upon full implementation of the metering and communication systems, the City will have deployed 220,000 meters.

With a major commitment from the City Commission and an \$8.9 million federal Smart Grid investment grant, the City forged ahead with Elster, a leader in smart metering technology. The advanced integrated system includes meters and associated communications infrastructure, data collection software to better manage power usage by customers and the system overall, and two-way communication devices, such as Smart thermostats, in-home energy monitors and other interactive tools that allow customers to manage their power usage.

"Elster offered a unique approach to modernizing our network," said Mayor John Marks, a longtime champion of energy efficiency and Smart Grid technology. "By incorporating information technology into every aspect of delivery and consumption, we will minimize the environmental impact, improve power reliability, reduce cost and increase efficiency."

The goal is to provide customers with greater control, flexibility and cost-saving options. Other benefits include increased flexibility and choices, responsive service and new jobs. Customers can also take advantage of the city's numerous e+ programs, such as free energy audits, ceiling insulation grants and Energy Star and natural gas appliance rebates.

"I've had the opportunity to meet personally with U.S. Department of Energy officials and they understand Tallahassee's work as an innovator in Smart Grid technology," said Mayor Marks. "That's important for our community, especially during these challenging economic times, as the bottom line is to help our customers save energy, water and money."

For more information about the City of Tallahassee's e+ Smart Grid and related e+ programs, visit <http://Talgov.com/YOU> or call 850.891.4YOU (4968).

Toronto Hydro's TOU Website Intrigues and Amuses

Proving once again that people are naturally curious about how things work... writer April Lindgren of the Urban Compass muses that "the tiniest acts of electricity gluttony at the 'wrong' time of day translate into higher costs."

With some parents discovering that their kids were skipping school (and triggering a middle-of-the-day spike in consumption), and the cost of a long hot bath coming in at \$0.14 (Canadian), Lindgren's article is a fun take on TOU electricity consumption and the changes we may all be learning to live with.

The Toronto Hydro website (www.torontohydro.com/tou) reports hourly electricity use for each and every customer as monitored by the EnergyAxis System. [Read Lindgren's entire story.](#)

New Components Extend EnergyAxis Capability

All Elster, "under the cover" WAN Option for Meters, Gatekeepers

Just released: A portfolio of Elster-engineered WAN Interface Cards (WIC) that support ANSI C12.22, including security. Available in both Ethernet and wireless versions, EnergyAxis WICs are designed to fit under the cover of the A3 ALPHA meter and A3 ALPHA meter/gatekeeper. WICs enable meters and gatekeepers to communicate directly with the EnergyAxis head-end software without an external modem.

Remote Load Control for Polyphase Service

The new AGI Remote Load Control (RLC) Polyphase Interrupter enables cost-effective remote control of polyphase loads at remote or unstaffed commercial, industrial and agricultural sites. The AGI Remote Load Control Polyphase Interrupter can interrupt polyphase loads up to 120 or 200 Amps on each of three phases at up to 600V. Timely monitoring ensures that load control decisions are based on accurate data. In addition, load switching operations can be phased to cushion impact to the grid, helping to protect utility assets. Download the [RLC data sheet.](#)

Field Tool EA_Inspector 2.2

In addition to providing additional trouble-shooting help to find registered and unregistered meters, the EA_Inspector 2.2 can activate the REX2 900 MHz HAN broadcast feature on location, enabling field crews to ensure that in-home displays are communicating with the associated electric meter. EA_Inspector 2.2 also incorporates several security enhancements and utilizes government grade (CIP level) encryption and hashing functions. All EA Inspector version 2 units are on a new Radix computing platform for greater functionality and security: if you have EA_Inspector version 1, contact your Elster sales representative to get these new capabilities.

Join the Online EnergyAxis Community

As our user community has continued to grow, there has been a growing desire amongst our users to interact with each other on a regular basis and share ideas on how to leverage EnergyAxis to its fullest. The EnergyAxis Community Board is facilitating this dialog. Members of this online community share best practices and interact with EnergyAxis users from a diverse mix of experiences and applications.

The forum is open to existing EnergyAxis customer representatives who are encouraged to register for a login at <http://energyaxis.ipbhost.com>. Once your registration is approved, you can begin interacting with your fellow users.

Partner Spotlight: Tropos Networks



Tropos Networks provides utilities with a field proven IP broadband communications foundation for Smart Grids. Here at Elster, we have leveraged their GridCom™ Architecture to provide connectivity between the utility enterprise and the Elster smart metering network via the EnergyAxis Gatekeepers, showcasing another example of the flexibility of Elster's smart grid offering in providing interoperable solutions.

But there is more. In addition to this use as smart metering backhaul, GridCom is a private distribution area network that can be used to aggregate communications for multiple smart grid applications, including distribution automation, substation security, and mobile workforce management. Elster and Tropos are deployed together in the field today, allowing our customers to realize the true benefits of a Smart Grid.

For more information, please contact your Elster Account Executive. Check out Tropos's website to learn more about [GridCom](#).

Upcoming Events

- [Smart Metering Network Implementation Summit](#), April 26-28, Washington D.C.
- [eMeter Smart Grid Leadership Conference](#), May 3-5, Monterey, CA Elster is Silver Sponsor.
- [TVPPA Annual Conference](#), May 17-19, Nashville, TN
- [NWPPA Engineering and Operations Conference](#), May 23-27, Sacramento, CA
- [Connectivity Week](#), May 24-27, Santa Clara, CA
- [AMI-MDM Working Group Workshop](#) sponsored by Elster as part of CS Week Synergy Group Activities, May 24-28, Nashville, TN