EnergyAxis Connections

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

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Mexico’s largest electric utility selects EnergyAxis

The Federal Electricity Commission (CFE), Mexico’s state power company, has successfully integrated Elster’s EnergyAxis® Management System (EA_MS) with CFE’s customer information and billing systems to provide additional operational efficiencies for the utility.

Elster is the first and only AMI provider to have received a Certificate of Compliance from CFE, which certifies the integration of its two-way EnergyAxis system with CFE’s enterprise system. The two-way integration allows CFE to automate its data collection process, detect non-technical losses, improve customer service and execute remote disconnections more quickly and cost effectively.

CFE is currently reading residential and commercial meters remotely. The Elster technology provides CFE with the capability to efficiently and remotely interrupt service on overdue accounts and to promptly reconnect service once an overdue account balance is paid. CFE customers can now reconnect their service immediately by paying their bill at any CFE ATM machine located throughout Mexico.

CFE has successfully deployed eight EnergyAxis Systems throughout Mexico, making the EnergyAxis solution the largest two-way AMI system currently deployed in the country, with more connected endpoints than any other system. Read more

Salt River Project to double EnergyAxis deployment

SRP, the largest provider of electricity to the greater Phoenix metropolitan area and the third-largest public power utility in the nation, will utilize its United States Department of Energy (DOE) Smart Grid Investment Grant (SGIG) award to double its deployment of the Elster EnergyAxis® advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) Smart Grid solution.

Since 2003, SRP has paved the way for Smart Meter technology among U.S. electric utilities, deploying approximately 500,000 Elster REX residential and ALPHA commercial and industrial Smart Meters and utilizing the data provided by EnergyAxis to support industry-leading customer service, and significant cost and environmental savings.

SRP estimates that the EnergyAxis solution has enabled the Arizona utility to remotely address more than 748,000 customer orders, save more than 249,000 in labor hours, avoid more than 1.3 million driving miles and conserve 135,000 gallons of fuel.

EnergyAxis enables SRP customers to better monitor and manage their energy consumption based on pre-selected time-of-use (TOU) rates. This and other focused consumer initiatives have contributed to SRP receiving several J.D. Power and Associates honors, scoring highest in customer satisfaction for business and residential electric service among large electricity providers in the western United States.

SRP is in the process of ordering an additional 500,000 EnergyAxis Smart Meters for delivery over the next three years, at a rate of approximately 14,000 Smart Meters per month. This will bring SRP's total number of EnergyAxis endpoints to approximately one million while also maintaining SRP's position as a smart meter leader in the utility field. SRP will use Elster's EnergyICT meter data management system to process the information from these endpoints. Read more

EnergyAxis powers Burlington Hydro's Electric Vehicle project

Burlington Hydro recently announced that EnergyAxis will power the electric vehicle (EV) fleet for GridSmartCity™, Burlington Hydro Inc.'s dynamic renewable energy and Smart Grid modernization initiative.

The GridSmartCity project will use EnergyAxis to integrate the first all-electric vehicle to be used in a commercial fleet in Canada. The project will study potential broad-scale vehicle electrification in commercial fleet applications.

Elster's EnergyAxis will enable Burlington Hydro to remotely monitor and control electricity consumption patterns at a vehicle charging station in Burlington and to better understand how to develop an optimal recharging infrastructure and integrate EVs onto the Smart Grid.

For the GridSmartCity project, Burlington Hydro plans to incorporate the all-electric vehicle into its working fleet for a collaborative one-year study and demonstration project with the University of Waterloo, Transport Canada, Elster and other industry innovators, including Eaton and Pioneer Petroleum. Pioneer Petroleum will operate an EV charging station at one of its retail gas stations. Read more

Two new whitepapers from Elster

Exploring the Green Side of AMI in the Smart Grid

Everyone knows that in addition to being efficient and reliable, the Smart Grid is also supposed to be environmentally friendly and socially responsible. But what do "green" and "socially responsible" really mean when it comes to choosing and implementing Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) and Smart Grid solutions? To help utilities weigh the environmental advantages vs. practical reality, this quick guide gives you a cradle-to-grave check-list of potential ways you can incorporate environmental and social responsibility into your Smart Grid program.

Download paper

AMI Security Considerations

Many electric utilities are deploying or planning to deploy smart grid technologies. For smart grid deployments, AMI enables radical changes in the operation of the distribution grid. Given the new levels of automation and extended access to the grid enabled by AMI, issues have been raised concerning the potential of security gaps within smart grid deployments, with some concerns pertaining specifically to existing and new AMI solution offerings. This newly updated paper examines some of the security concerns related to AMI systems and describes key preventive measures that can be taken against cyber security issues.

Download paper

Partner Spotlight: Exceleron Software

Prepaid metering offers utilities a way to improve and protect revenues while providing greater payment flexibility to consumers. Utilities experienced with prepayment have reported that in transient communities – near universities, for example – prepayment is preferred over any other payment option.Elster partner Exceleron Software is an expert in prepaid metering solutions. Exceleron's Prepaid Account Management System (PAMS) is used by over 40 utilities in the U.S. No on-site hardware or software installation is required to operate this web-based solution. Users create and manage prepaid accounts via PAMS' easy-to-use web interface (MyUsage.com).

Consumers are provided with balance, usage and pending disconnections information and can receive updates and information via email, text messages, and/or automated phone messages. Consumers can also obtain information by logging into MyUsage.com or by calling into an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system. PAMS prepaid services can be utilized for electric, water, and gas (or any combination).

For more information about EnergyAxis and prepayment, please contact your Elster representative. Also visit www.exceleron.com.

Upcoming Events

- 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
- North Carolina Technology Association, May 26, Raleigh, NC