

We're running out of time

Early in April, the second part of the new UN report on climate change was presented in Brussels. The contents of this report have set the alarm bell ringing. Scenarios which were thought to be many years away, such as famine, floods and the extinction of numerous plant and animal species, were forecast for the near future. The message of this report is clear, even though some UN member states endeavoured to mitigate up to the last minute. The dramatic results predicted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its first report had already triggered international panic. Of all people, the poor – e.g. in Africa and Asia – will be most affected by the consequences. Climate change is a fact and it may already be too late.

For this reason, fast and decisive action is required to limit the temperature increase worldwide and to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. It is a huge challenge but it is our task to do something about it – and we have the possibilities to do so. It is now essential to make systematic use of sustainable technologies and renewable energies and we must use available energy sources efficiently instead of wasting them and polluting the environment.

Let us now talk about our possibilities to do something and to assume responsibility – you, as an energy supply company, and us, in our role as a manufacturer of measuring equipment. In this context, information is the key to enable end users

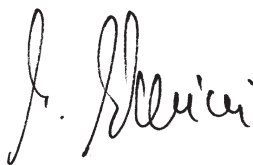
to control their energy consumption. Visualisation of consumption values, drawing up comparative profiles as well as real-time consumption data are just some of the buzzwords used in the EU Energy Efficiency Directive which must be transposed by the member states into national law.

In our role as a manufacturer, we are well aware that our future no longer lies solely in technologies for pure consumption measurement, but rather in systems which provide real-time consumption data at the required place, in addition to precise measuring.

Simplified billing of consumption data for various media requires standard communication interfaces. Therefore, we are aiming at providing a communication platform which allows integration of meters for all media and efficient remote meter reading at low cost.

It may seem presumptuous to consider our activities in a global context of reducing CO₂ emissions, but this is OUR contribution to preserving natural resources.

Yours



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