

KISS

This Editorial has got nothing to do with either relationships or rock bands. "KISS" stands for **Keep It Simple and Straight** forward – a useful guideline to remember when addressing day-to-day challenges.

The "simple and straight forward" concept cannot always be seen from the outside, it is often hidden in the inside principles of, for example, the modular programming of the new Elster-Instromet flow computer FC1, which will be shown for the first time in public as part of the World Gas Exhibition in Buenos Aires. On the other hand, sometimes it is visible at first sight, as when using the plug & play mechanism to connect a volume corrector to an Elster-Instromet turbine meter or rotary meter equipped with an Absolute ENCODER. Having plug & play functionalities in place of a complex process of combining two devices is such a convincing step forward that the Absolute ENCODER has almost become standard in some markets.

These two examples concern devices already available. They have been either modified to work with a simplified internal structure, or extended in functionality so that they can be more easily handled and are less subject to fault and error. The first step in designing or inventing new devices, however, is often compiling the list of requirements or the specification. This is where the important decisions are made as to whether a device will be complex and difficult to handle, or easy and straight forward. At such a stage of product development, identifying what is essential,

what is beneficial, and what is dispensable is a difficult task. It can often be easy not to question requested features, and yet other people will need to live with the consequences.

Among all the complexities in our industry, the KISS principle is particularly essential for smart metering. The dictionary defines "smart" as cute, stylish, clever or capable, but not as "complex" or "complicated". If the specifications for smart metering systems require too many functions at the point of measurement, the stream of data will grow tremendously and risk being subject to failing transmissions. Furthermore, the multifunctional devices in all households – previously simply called meters – will have to carry additional elements such as buttons, displays with complicated menus, etc., which are subject to misunderstandings, costly calls to the helpline, fraud and, finally, failure.

The Elster-Instromet team will help you to keep things simple and straight forward. After all, we have one main target in common: ultimately, we want the products we supply to work properly.

With our very best wishes,



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Publishing dates:

Three editions for the year 2009