

## Metering Europe 2011 in Amsterdam: Interoperable by design

This year, the most important annual industry meeting of metering companies and experts was held from 3 – 6 October in Amsterdam. The core topic of the congress and trade fair was the discussion on how utility companies can meet the target to provide every private EU household with smart meters by 2020.

Throughout the entire event, technical lectures were given on widely differing topics from the field of Smart Metering, ranging from initial installation and commissioning problems to network topologies and safety regulations. Data protection and data security were two topics which attracted particular interest from the delegates. In the exhibition section of the event, lots of companies unveiled their latest products and services related to Smart Metering, Smart Grid and Smart Homes. This demonstrated quite clearly that the industry now has the solutions to meet the EU targets, but whether they are successful is heavily dependent on the level of acceptance of the end user.

Elster demonstrated its competence at the congress by giving several lectures on the subject of data protection and data security. The company's exhibition stand is crowned by the new Elster logo motto "Vital Connections" and features a new, fresh design with this year's trade fair slogan "Interoperable by design". Visitors to the Elster stand were able to find out more about the very latest and even future solutions and technologies for all areas of gas, electricity, water and data management, all of which meet the most recent measurement and communications requirements. Among other things, Elster exhibited a new solution for data protection and data security in the form of the electricity meter AS300 which attracted a great deal of interest. With this solution, both electricity and gas consumption data can be made available to the suppliers in anonymous and aggregated form. Elster's developments demonstrate that its focus is on interoperability and compatibility with all product groups, and even with products from other suppliers, which ensures that customers can be offered flexible, future-proof solutions.



The statutory requirements and outline conditions imposed by various countries are one of the main points of interoperability. In some countries, such as Great Britain, Italy and the Netherlands, for example, these are already in place or are well underway. In Germany, on the other hand, a great deal of change to existing technical solutions and specifications is still expected due to the new Energy Industry Act (EnWG) with the requirements it makes relating to data security by protection profiles for smart meters and other technical directives. More information on

this subject is provided in the article written by Dr. Daniela Lücke-Janssen on page 26.

In talks between the lectures, but also in intensive discussions with our customers, suppliers and other market participants, we have once again discovered how important it is to exchange views on the wide range of problems, ideas, possible solutions and products in this segment to enable us to work jointly on creating solutions for the future.

Although the subject of Smart Metering leaves plenty of scope for new developments, it is important to include the requirements of the market in the process so as to implement a reasonable and fair cost structure.

We are in close dialogue with our customers and the interest groups involved and will be delighted to help you in any way we can if you have any questions