

# Smart Metering in North America and Asia-Pacific

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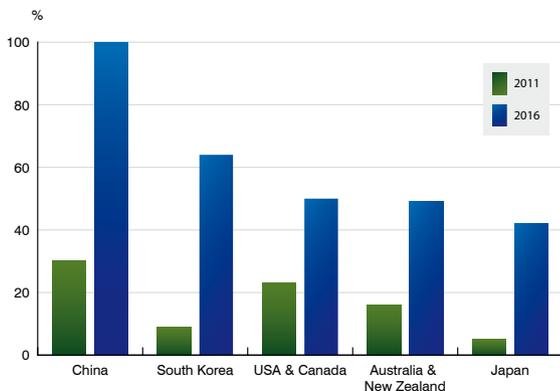
## Smart meters spread through North America and Asia-Pacific

Smart grid is one of the latest buzzwords in the energy sector and has become a catch-phrase for politicians, academics and industry leaders alike. The vision is to exploit the latest technology to address the immense challenge of securing the energy supply in the 21st century. The concept of smart grids is at times put forward as a revolutionary solution to a wide array of problems, ranging from the West's dependency on Middle Eastern oil to global warming. A more realistic expectation is however that smart grid technology will contribute to improved efficiency and reliability in energy distribution and better optimisation in allocation of resources and utilisation of assets.

Smart metering is widely regarded as the cornerstone for future smart grids. In the history of metering technology, smart metering represents the third stage in a chain of developments spanning more than 100 years. Manually read meters have been around since the advent of the utility industry in the late 19th century. Over the last three decades, automated meter reading (AMR) based on one-way or two-way communication has evolved. Smart metering broadens the scope of AMR beyond just meter readings with additional features enabled by two-way data communication. A smart metering solution generally delivers a range of applications using an infrastructure comprising networked meters, communication networks and data collection and management systems.

Smart electricity meters are being introduced all over the developed world. North America and Asia-Pacific are two of the most dynamic market regions that will see massive projects realised over the next five to ten years. Berg Insight forecasts that the installed base of smart electricity meters in North America will grow at a compound annual growth rate of 22.5 percent between 2010 and 2016 to reach 87.4 million units at the end of the period. Asia-Pacific is projected to see the installed base of smart meters soar from a low level to 378.1 million units by 2016.

North America has the world's highest penetration of automatic meter reading, exceeding 50 percent. Over the past years, many of the largest utilities in the US have embarked on ambitious smart grid schemes where one of the main objectives is to deploy second generation advanced metering infrastructure. AEP, PG&E, Southern California Edison, Southern Company, Florida Power & Light and Oncor are some of the largest utility groups having committed to full-scale rollouts to all customers. Furthermore there are numerous projects ►



Projected penetration rates for smart electricity meters in North America and Asia-Pacific

► among medium sized and small utilities throughout the country. National and state policies play a major role in shaping developments. The US market received a major boost through the Obama Administration's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that includes US\$ 43 billion ear-marked for the energy sector plus tax incentives. A number of states, including California, Texas, Florida and Pennsylvania have approved utility plans for massive smart meter deployments, while others such as Virginia have turned down major project proposals. In Canada, the provinces of Ontario and British Columbia have introduced mandatory requirements for smart electricity meters for all customers. Hydro-Québec announced Canada's largest project to date in 2011, involving 4.0 million metering points.

East Asia is in the earliest phase of the adoption of smart metering technology. Large-scale rollouts to residential customers have only recently begun in Japan and South Korea, while China remains in the piloting stage. National and industry leaders do however have clear visions for the adoption of the technology over the course of this decade. South Korea has adopted a national plan for the construction of a smart grid by 2020. Japan already has the world's most advanced power grid monitoring systems in place and several of the leading utilities have announced plans for smart meter deployments over the next ten years. China is investing massively in the expansion of the nation's energy infrastructure to keep up with the rapidly increasing power demand. The country has begun deploying a new generation of more advanced electricity meters, which are prepared for two-way communication. China has however not yet decided on any final standards for smart grid networking. Although the country is on track to reach near 100 percent penetration for smart meters that support communication by 2015, there is not yet any infrastructure in place to network them into a nationwide smart grid. Australia and New Zealand began massive installations of smart meters at the end of the last decade. Adoption is driven by regulations in the case of Australia and by the main industry players in New Zealand.

### This report answers the following questions:

- How are national energy policies driving the adoption of smart metering?
- What new smart metering projects have been enabled by the US federal stimuli funds?
- What are the plans for smart meters deployments in British Columbia and Québec?
- When will China start the construction of a nationwide smart metering data network?
- What is the role for smart metering in South Korea's national smart grid plan?
- What is the current status for smart metering in Japan?
- What is driving adoption of smart meters in Australia and New Zealand?
- Who are leading the race for market leadership in North America?
- Which are the main providers of PLC and wireless communication technology for smart meters?
- Which are the emerging top players in the Chinese smart metering industry?

## ► Table of Contents

<b>1 Smart grids and intelligent meters</b>		
1.1 Introduction to smart grids		
1.2 Smart metering		
1.2.1 Smart metering applications		
1.2.2 Smart metering infrastructure		
1.2.3 Benefits of smart metering		
1.3 Project strategies		
1.3.1 System design and sourcing		
1.3.2 Rollout and integration		
1.3.3 Implementation and operation		
1.3.4 Communicating with customers		
1.4 Regulatory issues		
1.4.1 Models for the introduction of smart meters		
1.4.2 Standardisation		
1.4.3 Individual rights issues		
<b>2 PLC and wireless communication technologies</b>		
2.1 PLC versus wireless communication		
2.1.1 PLC point-to-multipoint		
2.1.2 Wireless Mesh point-to-multipoint		
2.1.3 Cellular networks point-to-point		
2.1.4 Home area networking		
2.2 PLC technology and vendors		
2.2.1 Industry associations and standards		
2.2.2 Tier one semiconductor companies		
2.2.3 Advanced Digital Design		
2.2.4 CURRENT		
2.2.5 Leaguer Microelectronics		
2.2.6 Topscmm		
2.2.7 Yitran Communications		
2.3 Wireless technology and vendors		
2.3.1 Industry initiatives and standards		
2.3.2 Cinterion		
2.3.3 Coronis		
2.3.4 Ember		
2.3.5 Sierra Wireless		
2.3.6 Sigma Designs		
2.3.7 Simcom		
2.3.8 Telit		
<b>3 Smart metering industry players</b>		
3.1 Meter vendors		
3.1.1 Landis+Gyr		
3.1.2 Itron		
3.1.3 Elster		
3.1.4 Aichi Tokei Denki		
3.1.5 EDMI		
3.1.6 GE Energy		
3.1.7 Holley Metering		
3.1.8 Linyang Electronics		
3.1.9 LSIS		
3.1.10 Osaki Electric		
3.1.11 Sanxing Electric		
3.1.12 Schneider Electric		
3.1.13 Secure Meters		
3.1.14 Sensus		
3.1.15 Wasion		
3.1.16 Second tier Chinese meter vendors		
3.2 Smart grid solution providers		
3.2.1 Aclara		
3.2.2 Ambient		
3.2.3 Arcadian Networks		
3.2.4 Arc Innovations		
3.2.5 Cooper Power Systems		
3.2.6 Comverge		
3.2.7 Echelon		
3.2.8 Eastsoft		
3.2.9 FXXC		
3.2.10 KDN		
3.2.11 Nighthawk		
3.2.12 NURI Telecom		
3.2.13 Omni System		
3.2.14 Ruggedcom		
3.2.15 Silver Spring Networks		
3.2.16 SmartSynch		
3.2.17 Tantalus		
3.2.18 Trilliant		
3.2.19 Tropos Networks		
3.3 MDMS and middleware vendors		
3.3.1 Ecologic Analytics		
3.3.2 eMete		
3.3.3 EnergyICT		
3.3.4 NorthStar Utilities Solutions		
3.3.5 Oracle		
3.3.6 OSISoft		
3.3.7 SAP		
3.4 System integrators and managed service providers		
3.4.1 IT industry players		
3.4.2 Telecom industry players		
<b>4 Market analysis</b>		
4.1 North America		
4.1.1 Market forecast		
4.1.2 Technology trends		
4.1.3 Industry analysis		
4.2 East Asia		
4.2.1 Market forecast		
4.2.2 Technology trends		
4.2.3 Industry analysis		
4.3 Australia and New Zealand		
4.3.1 Market forecast		
4.3.2 Technology trends		
4.3.3 Industry analysis		
<b>5 North America</b>		
5.1 Regional summary		
5.2 United States		
5.2.1 Electricity and gas utilities		
5.2.2 Federal smart grid and metering initiatives		
5.2.3 Regional overview: Northeast		
5.2.4 Regional overview: Midwest		
5.2.5 Regional overview: South		
5.2.6 Regional overview: West		
5.3 Canada		
5.3.1 Electricity and gas utilities		
5.3.2 Ontario's smart meter rollout		
5.3.3 Smart metering initiatives in other provinces		
<b>6 Asia-Pacific</b>		
6.1 Regional summary		
6.2 China		
6.2.1 Electricity industry structure		
6.2.2 Smart grid and metering initiatives		
6.3 Japan		
6.3.1 Electricity and gas utility industry structure		
6.3.2 Smart grid and metering initiatives		
6.4 South Korea		
6.4.1 Electricity and gas utility industry structure		
6.4.2 National smart grid plan for 2020		
6.5 Australia		
6.5.1 Electricity and gas utility industry structure		
6.5.2 Regulation driven deployments of smart meters		
6.6 New Zealand		
6.6.1 Electricity industry structure		
6.6.2 Industry driven deployments of smart meters		
<b>7 Case studies</b>		
7.1 North America		
7.1.1 Pacific Gas & Electric		
7.1.2 Sempra Energy		
7.1.3 Florida Power & Light		
7.1.4 Hydro-Québec		
7.1.5 BC Hydro		
7.2 East Asia		
7.2.1 State Grid Corporation of China		
7.2.2 Kansai Electric Power		
7.2.3 KEPCO		
7.3 Australia and New Zealand		
7.3.1 Ausgrid		
7.3.2 Jemena and UED		
7.3.3 SP AusNet		
7.3.4 Vector		
<b>Glossary</b>		

## About the Author



**Tobias Ryberg** is co-founder and principal analyst responsible for the M2M research series. He is an experienced analyst and author of numerous articles and reports about telecom and IT for leading Swedish and international publishers. The Smart Metering market has been his major research area for the past 9 years.

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