Conclusion



Image source: posterize, http://www.freedigitalphotos.net/images/view_photog.php?photogid=1665

Optimising opportunities for success Looking to the future

For Smart Metering and smart grids to stand a chance of real success, there is a need for the adoption of 'open innovation' approaches based on collaboration and co-creation that respect security issues, human rights, public health, the environment and the need for beneficial best practice and timely innovation.

"Companies face tough dilemmas every day for which there is a uniquely prepared mind somewhere in the world who possesses the right combination of expertise and experience to solve that problem," Tapscott & Williams (2008).

History has continually proven that, when more facts are known, properly thought out strategies can often provide cheap and simple solutions for seemingly unsolvable problems.

The 'Win/Win' approach

There are already experts available worldwide who can provide creative, technical, legal and scientific insights into how Smart Metering and smart grids can be improved and optimised.

If larger interdisciplinary teams are created, numerous problems (both those that have been seen and are unforeseen) can be solved far more rapidly, whilst creating more resilient 'biologically friendly' technology, legal frameworks and 'win/win' scenarios for all concerned.

Whilst some Smart Meters - *in their present form* - may adversely affect health, and there are concerns about system security and the timing of rollouts; more suitable alternatives are available - or can be created.

SMART METERS - SMARTER PRACTICES

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity and if ... [we get] it right it will genuinely be the case that 'everybody wins' ...

It will be those ... who look to be part of the 'smart scene' by seeing these challenges as a means of opening up new business opportunities who will benefit. ...

This is a unique opportunity for those professionals associated with developing the 'intelligent' buildings of tomorrow, and who themselves are smart enough to help make the 'smart revolution' happen."

Terry Rowbury, Director-Energy Sector, BEAMA*

*BEAMA is the independent expert knowledge base & forum for the electrotechnical industry in the UK & Europe.

The need for strong vision

It is imperative that the precautionary principle is employed and that national security, public health, public safety and the economic wellbeing of countries are taken into consideration when considering the types of Smart Meter systems to adopt and the timing of their rollouts – *Refer also to the Appendices*.

The adoption of other measures that can further reduce energy usage should be actively encouraged.

"Coming together for maximum mutual benefit requires strong vision, openness, responsibility, commitment, accountability, fairness, mutual respect, and the wisdom to know how to act appropriately on the findings discovered so that maximum longterm gains are made by all parties," Isaac Jamieson (2010).

Those who positively address the matters raised in this review document may be more likely to create successful Smart Metering systems – they may also be more likely to be the leaders in the forthcoming 'bio-electromagnetically friendly' technological revolution. Adopting pioneering (*instead of closed*) mindsets has already been proven to generate superior results and innovation in the electronics industry (Hiltzik 1999). Which countries will choose to adopt this path remains to be seen.

Those who fail to address such issues may leave themselves at increased risk of economic destabilisation, public distrust and ever increasing lawsuits. Cost effective 'Win/Win' solutions that benefit the individual, national economies and the environment should be sought wherever practical.

SMART METERS - SMARTER PRACTICES

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