

Media release

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Smart metering through the cable network – affordable and reliable

Smart metering, the real-time recording of data on electricity consumption and the transmission of this data should help to encourage consumers of electricity to be more economical in their energy consumption. A pilot project which upc cablecom realised together with Elektrizitätsversorgung Altendorf AG has now demonstrated that smart metering also works perfectly through the cable network. Compared to other solutions that are in use at the moment, hybrid fibre coax networks (HFC networks) are even coming out on top.

Against the backdrop of the current energy debate, more and more electricity suppliers feel the need to provide their customers with their power consumption data in real time and bill them monthly according to their actual usage. Smart metering not only has the potential to facilitate transparent billing in line with consumption; according to DETEC estimates, private households in Switzerland could save around five to six percent of their current power consumption using this system.

Building on the existing infrastructure

A number of electricity suppliers have used this requirement as the basis for reviewing their own optical fibre networks – a lengthy and very expensive process. The pilot project realised by upc cablecom and Elektrizitätsversorgung Altendorf AG in the first half of 2011 has now demonstrated that the existing HFC cable networks offer an affordable and reliable alternative. In fact, the infrastructure expenditure amounts to just a fraction of the cost of connecting a property to optical fibre. In addition, the test has shown that the HFC infrastructure boasts excellent characteristics in terms of availability and reliability, for smart metering applications of both today and the future. In direct comparison with standard powerline and GSM solutions, the HFC system exceeds these many times over with respect to bandwidth, response time and reliability.

Thanks to the broad cable network coverage in Switzerland, the cable network companies are in a position to tackle smart metering projects in partnership with their service provider. As the necessary technology is already installed and operational, and the cable network companies have the expertise required for the smooth running of the processes, they are able to provide the resources that are necessary to carefully coordinate the respective devices and to clearly define the processes and interfaces.



For more information about upc cablecom visit:

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About upc cablecom

upc cablecom – a member of Liberty Global – is Switzerland's largest cable network company and provides its customers with offerings in the television, Internet and telephony sectors. As of 30 June 2011 the company recorded over 1.5 million cable connections with television and radio reception. 509,600 customers additionally use upc cablecom Digital TV and Radio. Another 525,200 Internet and 339,000 telephony customers have invested their trust in the products of Switzerland's largest cable network operator. The company also provides voice, data and value-added services for business customers. upc cablecom supplies cable network companies with system building, application and transmission services. Its own network serves over 2 million households and covers all major Swiss cities. In 2010 upc cablecom generated revenue of more than 1.1 billion Swiss francs with 1400 employees.

<http://www.upc-cablecom.ch/about>

About Liberty Global

Liberty Global is the leading international cable operator offering advanced video, voice and broadband internet services to connect its customers to the world of entertainment, communications and information. As of June 30, 2011, Liberty Global operated state-of-the-art networks serving 18 million customers across 14 countries principally located in Europe, Chile and Australia. Liberty Global's operations also include significant programming businesses such as Chellomedia in Europe.

<http://www.lgi.com>