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Corporate News

OpenLimit Holding AG: Power for the Smart Meter Gateway - Elster collaborates with PPC and OpenLimit to create a complete interoperable BSI smart metering solution

Baar, Mainz-Kastel, Mannheim, 11 February 2014 - Elster is offering its German customers a complete interoperable BSI smart metering solution, in which the gateway from PPC and OpenLimit will be integrated. The Smart Meter Gateway meets the requirements not only of the Technical Guideline and the BSI Protection Profile, but also of the PTB (Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt or Federal Physical and Technical Institute) and the FNN (the VDE's Forum on Network Technology / Network Operation).

Elster, one of the world's leaders in the area of smart metering, has decided to enter into a partnership with PPC (a leading provider of smart meter gateways and broadband power line systems) and OpenLimit SignCubes AG (an IT specialist for secure data transfer). To this end, the three companies signed a declaration of intent on 11 February, which will be followed by a partner agreement in the near future.

In this solution, the entire know-how and wide-ranging experience of the three companies is pooled together. Elster can thereby offer its customers the option of realizing reference and pilot projects very early on.

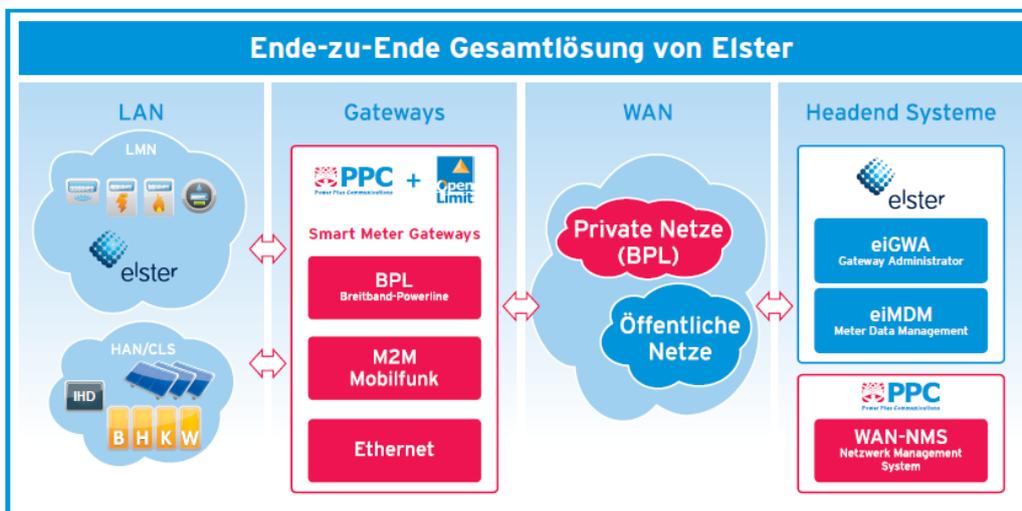


Figure 1: End-to-end complete interoperable metering system solution from Elster

Background

The rollout of smart metering in Germany is imminent. As a result of the amendment of the Energy Act (“Energiewirtschaftsgesetz” or EnWG in German) in the summer of 2011, the federal government passed some wide-ranging requirements for the introduction of gas and electricity metering systems. In the next few years, millions of metering systems will be installed. Going forward, an almost nationwide expansion of smart metering in Germany is envisaged. The compulsorily prescribed metering system (§ 21d EnWG) consists of a combination of communication network and metering device. It has to meet the requirements for data protection and data security set out by the Federal Office for Information Security (BSI) in the BSI Protection Profile and the Technical Guideline. The central component of the metering system is the Smart Meter Gateway (SMGW), which acts like an interface between end-customers and the different authorized market players, such as measuring point or distribution system operators. The SMGW guarantees not only protection of data for end-customers but also secure access to smart grid applications (renewable energy producers, accumulators, eHome) and therefore to grid-relevant market and operating processes. OpenLimit and PPC already started work on the certification of a Smart Meter Gateway in 2012. The Gateway will meet the requirements of the Technical Guideline and BSI Protection Profile as well as of the PTB and the FNN.



Figure 2: Smart Meter Gateway from PPC and OpenLimit

About Elster

Elster (www.elster.com) is one of the world’s largest providers of electricity, gas and water metering and regulation systems. Its range of products includes distribution and regulation technologies, expanded smart metering, demand response, network and software solutions and numerous communication technologies and services, key components which allow consumer choice as well as increasing operating efficiency and paying due consideration to the environment. The company’s products and solutions are used by utility companies in both traditional and new smart grid markets.

Elster's products are widely installed all over the world, with more than 200 million of its metering devices in use. The company sells its products and solutions in more than 130 countries for the areas of electricity, gas, water and multi-utility applications for private, industrial, transmission and distribution applications.

About Power Plus Communications

Power Plus Communications AG (www.ppc-ag.de), headquartered in Mannheim, is a leading provider of broadband power line (BPL) communication systems and BSI Protection Profile-compliant Smart Meter Gateways for secure smart metering and smart grids. As a pioneer of BPL technology, PPC has outstanding experience and expertise in the field of energy and telecommunications. The Smart Meter Gateway, developed in partnership with security specialist OpenLimit SignCubes AG, offers the utmost in data protection and security in the area of smart metering.

Together with leading European distribution system operators and energy providers, PPC has already expanded electricity grids supplying more than 500,000 households with BPL. In particular, its high level of robustness, first availability on the counter and execution of the BPL data transfer via the electricity grid make BPL the ideal communication platform for the rollout of the BSI-compliant metering system in Germany. PPC also offers white label and OEM solutions for system integrators and partners.

About OpenLimit

OpenLimit SignCubes AG (www.openlimit.com) was founded in 2002 and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of market-listed OpenLimit Holding AG. The company's headquarters are in Baar, Switzerland while it has a subsidiary in Berlin, Germany. The group employs over 60 highly qualified staff.

OpenLimit stands for the secure electronic handshake. With our technologies, we allow people and machines worldwide to communicate without limits in ways that are secure, traceable and identifiable. We develop enabling technologies and products in the following areas: digital identities, electronic signatures, evidentiary value-preserving long-term storage of data and documents and secure communication between machines. Our technologies are an integral part of products from leading manufacturers of IT applications for authorities and businesses, which have an impact on the individual. We enter into targeted strategic development and sales partnerships in order to position our technologies in different applications and vertical markets.

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