

Thursday 22 October 2009

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## Smart partnerships for SP AusNet's smart meter roll out

Electricity distributor SP AusNet will today announce its partners to facilitate the rollout of more than 680,000 'smart meters' to homes and small businesses across eastern and north eastern Victoria.

These partnerships will be formally announced by the Victorian Minister for Energy and Resources, The Hon. Peter Batchelor MP, in Melbourne today.

SP AusNet's smart meter rollout is expected to commence over the coming months, which will see more than 680,000 meters installed in Victorian homes by December 2013.

SP AusNet's Managing Director Nino Ficca said the announcement of these partnerships represented a major milestone for SP AusNet in its commitment to the Victorian Government's Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) program.

"The AMI program and the installation of smart meters will promote more efficient use of energy and provide customers with additional choices in meeting their energy supply needs," Mr Ficca said.

"The program will also make SP AusNet better equipped to accurately detect electricity supply faults and respond to them faster," he said.

Partnering with SP AusNet in the AMI program are: Landis+Gyr, GE and GridNet, UXC Limited, Electrix, Motorola, Unwired, eMeter, Logica, Accenture, Enterprise Business Services, and Geomatic Technologies.

Select Solutions, a commercial arm of SP AusNet, is providing the overall management of the end-to-end meter exchange component for the AMI program, including the management of all Field Service Providers and provisioning of required systems.

Mr Ficca said these partnerships would assist SP AusNet in its delivery of this major and unprecedented Victorian program.

"These partnerships have also allowed us to utilise WiMAX technology to communicate electricity consumption from the smart meters back to our systems, in a distinctly different approach to other Victorian electricity distribution companies," he said.

"WiMAX is a cutting edge, wireless digital communications system and we're looking forward to our customers receiving the benefits of this great technology."

Mr Ficca said SP AusNet was also pleased the AMI program was providing so many employment opportunities in Victoria.

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For Media Enquiries please contact Natasha Whalley  
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Mr Batchelor said the Brumby Government's program to rollout 2.5 million smart meters to Victorian households and small businesses over the next four years will help Victorians save energy and money on their electricity bills.

"SP AusNet is on track to roll out its 680,000 meters, with roughly 40,000 meters to be installed by the end of June next year."

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