

Notes on BC Hydro Smart Meter and Infrastructure (SMI) Program
based on the Business Plan release by BC Hydro

By: Ludo Bertsch, Horizon Technologies; www.horizontec.com, (250) 592-1488
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- BC Hydro released its Smart Meter and Infrastructure (SMI) business plan on Dec 23, 2010, for disclosure purposes only as it is not subject to any regulatory process or application (as stated in the BC Clean Energy Act legislation). The SMI program includes smart meters, conservation feedback (e.g. in-home displays), advanced theft detection, grid modernization, and other program activities (including privacy, security, safety, stakeholder engagement etc.).
- Procurement consists of 4 streams: solution integrator (project management and systems integration – Capgemini), metering systems (meters and communications with associated software), meter deployment and meter data software. There are 7 releases numbered 0 to 6.
- The total budget of the program is \$840 million, with a reserve of \$90 million for a total of \$930 million. It is expected to deliver over \$1.5 billion in benefits over a 20 year period. Overall benefits include: improves reliability, lowers operating costs, provides revenue protection (e.g. from theft), service improvements (in home feedback), allows for advanced applications (such as distributed generation, electric vehicles, micro-grids), provides energy and conservation savings (time-of-use rates, feedback, direct control of energy use), improves employee/public safety, reduces greenhouse gas emission, creates a range of jobs/opportunities in BC, and optimizes energy resources.
- There will be 1.8 million commercial and residential smart meters installed throughout BC Hydro territory starting in July 2011 and finishing in December 2012. The meter supplier has been short listed to three proponents, with the selection of the preferred supplier expected in January 2011. There is a budget of \$391 million for supply and deployment of smart meters, telecommunications, and software.
- The In-Home display (IHD) provides energy consumption and cost information directly from a smart meter and is one type of In-Home Feedback (IHF). Other types of IHF include energy management systems and accessing through the web. There will be a number of Power Smart certified IHF device options that a customer will be able to chose from either a customer service representative or through a retailer. BC Hydro will provide financial incentives (budgeted \$42 million) to acquire a basic, market-available IHD. BC Hydro has also budgeted \$20 million for the purchase of IHDs, website, and software for Time of Use rates, plus the architecture and design. Release “3” of the SMI program deals with the In-Home Feedback.
- Release “4” of the SMI program deals with Time-of-Use rates (charging different rates at different times of the day) which will go through BCUC hearings.