



Media Release

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1 million electricity customers about to receive smart meter

United Energy Distribution (UED) and Jemena today announced a joint program for the roll out of their Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI) program which will see just on 1 million homes and businesses in Melbourne and the Mornington Peninsula receive a new “smart meter” to help them manage electricity consumption.

Licensed Victorian Electricity Distributors Jemena and UED have established a joint program to roll out smart metering infrastructure across their respective networks starting in September 2009 and concluding in 2013.

Customers will be connected to a ‘smart’ metering network which will allow them to better monitor and manage their energy use. The network will establish a ‘technology platform’ for development of further energy management systems in homes, businesses and across the electricity grid.

Customers will also benefit from faster and more convenient electricity connection services and the removal of manual and estimated meter reading services, which will be replaced by more timely, accurate and detailed automated meter readings.

This roll out is part of a Victorian Government initiative to fully integrate ‘smart’ meters into electricity networks using two-way communication capabilities.

Jemena’s Managing Director Paul Adams said the program was a unique opportunity to take the two networks to the leading edge of technology and deliver better service to customers.

“We are really excited to be rolling out this new infrastructure. We’ve invested over two years in this project, our planning is well advanced and we have quality vendors on board. With this government’s infrastructure development support, and our partnership with UED, we are pleased to be leading the delivery of the best possible solution for our networks and our customers,” said Mr Adams.

UED Chief Executive Officer Hugh Gleeson said he was proud that the UED network was at the forefront of the Victorian smart meter roll out.

“This smart meter roll out will allow customers to better manage their energy consumption at a time when we are all becoming more energy focused. The smart meters will be linked to the electricity grid via a two-way communications network, establishing a technology platform for future energy management solutions in the home and smart grid solutions in the distribution network. With this technology, electricity retailers will be able to offer innovative electricity tariffs and other energy management solutions to their customers over time to help them better manage their electricity consumption and tackle climate change,” said Mr Gleeson.

Jemena, on behalf of UED, will install and operate over 660,000 meters throughout the East and South East suburbs of Melbourne and the Mornington Peninsula. Jemena will install and operate over 320,000 meters on its own network covering Melbourne’s northern and inner western suburbs.

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Media enquiries: Nicole Bailey (Jemena) 0413 704 526