



Media Release

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United Energy heads Victorian bid for Frankston Smart Grid, Smart City pilot

United Energy is leading the Victorian bid for the Federal Government's Smart Grid, Smart City \$100 million initiative. The bid puts forward Frankston City as the location for the national demonstration Smart City, trialling new energy technologies in United Energy's electricity network, homes and businesses.

The Smart Grid, Smart City initiative will test and demonstrate how energy networks can change to address the challenges of climate change and rising energy demand. The Federal Government's \$100 million grant will be used by the winning consortium to implement an exclusive program of trials.

"Using energy more efficiently is one of the most effective ways we can deal with climate change and United Energy is excited to be leading this innovative program. We believe the success of smart grids lies in the delivery of innovative technology combined with a pragmatic approach to sustained consumer behaviour around energy consumption and efficiency," CEO of United Energy, Hugh Gleeson, said.

"With support from the Victorian Government, leading national power company Jemena, energy retailer AGL Energy and consultancy firm Accenture, we believe our consortium has the ability to deliver real benefits for the Frankston community and demonstrate the value of smart grid technologies for Australia."

This initiative will see new energy technologies being piloted in the United Energy electricity network, homes and businesses, to encourage a smarter and more energy efficient network.

"Our bid sets out an integrated program for 10,000 households and businesses to use advanced technologies to understand their power usage, control their appliances and harness solar power, all aimed at reshaping the way power is delivered and used," said Mr Gleeson.

Victoria's bid has the full support of the Victorian Government, which recognises the critical role the energy sector can play in addressing these important issues.

"If successful, our *Smart Grid, Smart City* program will be delivered with the support of some of Australia's leading energy companies. Our delivery partner, leading power company Jemena will install first class intelligent grid management technologies on the network in the Frankston area.

"AGL Energy, Australia's largest energy retailer and our retail partner, will implement a series of customer-facing trials to test the effects of technology on household energy use. Global Technology consultancy Accenture will be our Integration Partner. Frankston City Council will play the key role as the trial location for this bid," said Mr Gleeson.

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