

# Technology Strategy Board

## Driving Innovation

### **PRESS RELEASE**

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#### **New research aims to make our homes smarter and more energy efficient**

Over a dozen new research and development projects now underway will aim to show how smart meters can be integrated with communications technology to make homes more energy-efficient, and consumers more energy-aware.

Thirteen major new projects are to receive support from the Technology Strategy Board which, in partnership with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), will invest £3.8 million in the innovative research and development. The projects will integrate 'smart' meters with communications technology to make a 'smart' system that will have an impact on the demand for energy in the home.

Iain Gray, the Technology Strategy Board's Chief Executive, said:

"The technology for smart meters – which give us real-time information about how much energy we are using – already exists. The next step is for these smart meters to form part of smart home systems, where appliances are integrated, giving us much more control over energy usage.

"To make the best use of these technologies, collaboration is required across sectors, bringing network operators together with the telecommunications and ICT infrastructure sectors."

Projects will deploy and test a wide array of interoperable networked systems, demonstrating the many integrated functions offered by smart meter technologies, delivering the integrated suite of services and partnerships needed to assist the development of the UK's Smartgrid programme.

Systems will incorporate energy usage data with microgeneration asset management; demand management of household appliances; examine security and privacy issues; offer integrated tele-healthcare and even financial services.

**Ends**

#### **Notes to Editors**

1. Examples of some of the projects to be funded through the competition are:

**Project Title:** Applied Research into Appliance Level Smart Metering over Broadband

**Partners:** Navetas Energy Management Ltd (lead), Cambridge Design Partnership LLP

**Outline:** The project aims to accelerate the development of a communications system which will allow data from a new, single point, energy monitor – currently under development – to be sent through broadband to a web portal where it could be accessed by the home owner and by the provider. The project will include an applied research trial in a number of homes around the UK. This will investigate the use of this smart metering technology and also assess how load-levelling methods could be implemented to help reduce peak energy consumption

**Contact:** Chris Shelley, Navetas Energy Management Ltd, [chris.shelley@navetas.com](mailto:chris.shelley@navetas.com), 01394 388500

**Project Title:** SmartVillage

**Partners:** Sensory Systems Ltd (lead), Bath Institute of Medical Engineering, Soft Edge Technologies Ltd, AJS Healthcare Ltd

**Outline:** This project will look closely at the relationship between energy efficiency information provided by in-home displays, their user interaction and the resultant knowledge driven management of demand with other systems in the home such as TeleCare. The project will specify, install and carry out comparative demonstrators in urban and rural locations. It will be a hands-on practical demonstration of Smart Metering technologies and home systems integrated and made interoperable so that interactions between market sector services and the effect of energy management policies can be evaluated by user reaction and cost.

**Contact:** Colin Holloway, Sensory Systems Ltd, [info@sensorysystems.eu](mailto:info@sensorysystems.eu), 01249 814 309

**Project Title:** Smart Homes Integrating Meters Money & Energy Research (SHIMMER)

**Partners:** Energy Saving Trust (lead), London Rebuilding Society, Easy Town CIC

**Outline:** SHIMMER is an interactive digital platform that integrates smart home energy management and innovative financial and banking services. The platform is networked into the user's household appliances, central heating system and micro-generation technologies. From the platform, the user can monitor, control, automate and reduce their domestic energy consumption. SHIMMER will also bring banking services directly into users homes, providing users with a real time bank account from which they can manage, for example, in-going and outgoing payments and a prepay card for small transactions.

**Contact:** Simon Green, Energy Saving Trust, [simon.green@est.org.uk](mailto:simon.green@est.org.uk), 0207 227 0101

**Project Title:** TAHI3ID@BRE - TAHI Integration, Interoperability, Installation Demonstrator at BRE

**Partners:** BRE (lead), DeMontfort University, EDF, Tridium, TAHI, OpenHub Limited

**Outline:** The objective of this project is to create a Demonstration Centre for Interoperability for systems in the Smart Home and Smart Metering to show how systems, services and devices from different market sectors (energy management, security, assisted living, appliance management and entertainment (AV) systems) can be integrated and used interoperably. In this project the emphasis will be on integration of Smart Metering systems with energy management and energy-using (and energy-producing) systems or devices.

**Contact:** Dr Mike Perry, BRE, [perrym@bre.co.uk](mailto:perrym@bre.co.uk), 07800 622886

2. Background information about the *Integrating Smart Meters into Systems for Smart Homes* funding competition can be found at: [http://www.innovateuk.org/assets/pdf/competition-documents/briefs/tsb\\_smartmeterscompflyert10-038-final.pdf](http://www.innovateuk.org/assets/pdf/competition-documents/briefs/tsb_smartmeterscompflyert10-038-final.pdf)
3. The Technology Strategy Board is a business-led executive non-departmental public body, established by the government. Its role is to promote and support research into, and development and exploitation of,

technology and innovation for the benefit of UK business, in order to increase economic growth and improve the quality of life. It is sponsored by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). For more information please visit [www.innovateuk.org](http://www.innovateuk.org).

4. Companies and other organisations seeking further information about this and other funding competitions should visit the competitions page of the Technology Strategy Board website – [www.innovateuk.org](http://www.innovateuk.org), email [support@innovateuk.org](mailto:support@innovateuk.org) or phone the helpline on 0300 321 4357.

Contact for media enquiries only: Nick Sheppard, Media Relations Consultant, Technology Strategy Board, Mobile: 07824 599644, Email: [nick.sheppard@tsb.gov.uk](mailto:nick.sheppard@tsb.gov.uk)