

# Press release

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IBERDROLA

Coordinated by IBERDROLA within the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme for the promotion of RDI

## THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION APPROVES THE OPEN METER PROJECT TO DEVELOP A STANDARD TECHNOLOGY FOR REMOTE METER MANAGEMENT

- Nineteen partners from seven European countries are participating in the consortium, which will start work on 4 February, thus guaranteeing that the standards will be internationally accepted.
- The Open Meter project, with a budget of more than €4million, 60% of which will be subsidised, envisages the large-scale implementation of remote electricity and gas meters.

The European Commission (EC) has recently approved the start-up of the Open Meter RDI project. The main objective of this initiative, coordinated by IBERDROLA, is the development of an open and common technology for remote meter management.

The initiative, which has a budget of more than €4million, 60% of which will be subsidised, obtained the highest mark of all the proposals presented within the EU's 7th Framework Programme for the promotion of RDI in the energy field (FP7 Energy 2008 1).

The Open Meter project has been developed to address the EU's requirements for the large-scale implementation of remote electricity and gas meters.

The group, coordinated by IBERDROLA, which will meet for the first time following the approval of the project on 4 February, will work to achieve open telecommunication standards capable of guaranteeing interconnectivity between the equipment and systems of different manufacturers.



In this way, the initiative is expected to allow a type of meter to be brought onto the market that will benefit customers in several ways, above all in their ability to participate actively in decisions relating to energy consumption since they will have information available on the tariffs applicable during different time periods.

The consortium, coordinated by IBERDROLA and made up of 19 partners from seven European countries (Spain, France, Italy, Germany, Holland, Belgium and Switzerland), comprises electricity companies, meter manufacturers, leading communications companies, research centres and universities.

With respect to equipment manufacturers, companies such as Actaris, Elster and Landis+Gyr, manufacturers of 80% of the meters installed in Europe, will participate in the Open Meter project, thus guaranteeing that the standards defined will be widely accepted by the industry.

In addition, the presence of leading European utilities will enable a complete analysis of user requirements to be undertaken as well as research into situations that will have to be faced by distribution network operators and energy suppliers.

### **Leader in the deployment of latest-generation meters**

IBERDROLA's leadership of this project ratifies the effort the company is making to comply with the meter replacement plan that already exists in Spain and is in line with its interest in developing an open technology for remote meter management that is accessible to the public.

Participation in the Open Meter project falls within the context of the strategy developed by IBERDROLA's RDI division for the optimum development of the group's energy distribution area.

In this context, IBERDROLA has promoted other initiatives within Europe, such as the OPERA project, to define an open standard for PLC broadband communication in which the company has played an important role in defining the IEEE 901 standard, or the PRIME project, to achieve an open standard PLC narrowband technology, which has already passed the first interoperability tests.

