THE ADVANTAGES OF UTILISING VENDOR INDEPENDENT AUTOMATED METER READING SYSTEMS

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• Introduction
• Overview of AMR Systems
• Vendor Independence
• Advantages to Municipalities and their customers
• What does the future hold
• Conclusion
Introduction

Buzz phrases:
Revenue protection, timely availability of data

Evaluate and test:
• Method of obtaining data
• Availability of data
• Compatibility with previous asset investments
Overview of AMR Systems

Automated Meter Reading System Overview

Field

GPRS
Meter with GPRS modems

GPRS Service Provider

GPRS Network

Central Processing Facility

AMR Server/Database Server

Billing system

External view (Internet Explorer)

External view node

Internal View node

Leased Line

TCP/IP

LAN

WEB Server

ciQuest

Internet

URL

Figure 1
Vendor Independence

Meter independent – communicate to different brands of meters.

Why vendor independence?

Previous financial investments.

Supply Chain processes

Technological advances – Smart metering.
Advantages to Municipalities and their customers

Revenue stream – 80/20 on industrial and commercial.

LPU’s – bill-on-the-web.

Expanding to lower levels.

Access to data:

Energy conservation with possible incentives.

Energy balances.

Quality of supply.
What does the future hold

One front-end that – depending on the user – shows all relevant data, retrieved from multiple data sources?

Billing data
On demand reads
Asset management
Outage management

MDUS – meter data unification system.
Conclusion

Vendor independent Automated Meter Reading Software should make a lot of sense within the municipal arena.