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STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE PRIME ALLIANCE FOR SMART METERING MANAGEMENT, CHAIRED BY IBERDROLA, MEETS AT GROUP HEADQUARTERS IN MADRID

- **The company is reinforcing its commitment towards supporting the development of 'smart grids', such as the projects already underway in Spain, the U.K. and the U.S.**

The Steering Committee of the PRIME Alliance (http://www.prime-alliance.org, chaired by Iberdrola, met today at the company's headquarters in Madrid to analyse the progress of the roll-outs underway around the world.

The PRIME (Power Line Intelligent Metering Evolution) project provides a communication system running on electric cable that supports the new remote meter management functionalities and is another step in the right direction of building the electrical grids of the future using interoperable technical solutions.

The PRIME Alliance, which currently has 34 members, has generated a competitive market with a total of 11 manufacturers of products that have been certified by PRIME for their open, interoperable architecture. With a view to extending the technology to other contexts where it has been demanded, the PRIME Alliance approved a roadmap of its specifications, contemplating aspects such as IPv6 and the 500 kHz extended bandwidth, among others.

All of the members of the PRIME Alliance were also provided with the protocol for communications between the metering concentrators and the management system, which will enable faster and easier roll-out of the projects already underway.

Many of the members of the PRIME Alliance have also taken part in the OPEN Meter project led by Iberdrola (http://www.openmeter.com/), on which the final conference was recently held. As a result of this initiative, the PRIME specifications were submitted to CENELEC with references CLC/TS 50567-1 and CLC/TS 52056-8-4.

Therefore, the ultimate goal of the PRIME Alliance, which is to define a complete set of standards on an international level that will permit interoperability between equipment and systems from different manufacturers, thus enhancing competitiveness in this market for the benefit of all its participants and the end consumer in particular, is closer to being achieved.

The main advantages of the roll-out of remote management systems in smart grids include: improved quality supply with shorter-lasting faults, reduction in consumption at peak times and increase at off-peak times, due to the fact that it is possible to actively manage demand.

Iberdrola is already engaged in major projects in this field, in the awareness that the roll-out of smart grids opens up a new business opportunity, while also promoting the responsible use of energy and enhancing efficiency in electricity distribution.

In Spain, Iberdrola is putting the finishing touches to developing the first area where its STAR (Spanish acronym for Grid Management and Automation System) project is to be deployed, in Castellón. This project has seen the renovation of over 70,000 meters so far, meaning that remote metering with automatic systems is now a reality.

The metering equipment that has been installed is based on the remote management technology developed by the PRIME Alliance. Devices and systems from five different suppliers are currently in use. The new meters are capable of safe, reliable communications with the company's control centres. They can also perform various orders and commands, many in real time.

Iberdrola is also participating in a project in the Basque Country along with the Basque Energy Board (EVE) to develop smart grids in the province of Biscay. This will require the adaptation of over 1,100 transformation centres and the renovation of 230,000 meters.

Outside Spain, Iberdrola's Scottish subsidiary, ScottishPower, is engaged in a project in Glasgow for the installation of 30,000 smart meters that will promote energy savings and offer new energy management possibilities to customers. Along these same lines, the company is promoting another important initiative in the United States, via its subsidiary Iberdrola USA, which plans to install 650,000 new smart meters for residential, business and industrial customers.