

PRIME ALLIANCE expands scope to cater for end-to-end security and to embrace IPv6 and DLMS-COSEM while field deployments gain momentum in many countries thanks to an impressive increase in interoperable PRIME PLC certified products available now

- *End-to-end security between AMM systems and smart meters: the adoption of IPv6 within the PRIME standard, as well as PRIME support for DLMS-COSEM and communications between head-end systems and PLC data concentrators enable this.*
- *PRIME field deployments are boosting both in numbers of utilities installing PRIME and in the variety of PRIME manufacturers and PRIME technologies to choose from.*
- *Collaboration amongst PRIME members has seen significant progress: PRIME is now a cutting-edge solution leading the way to a truly competitive smart metering market.*

3rd October 2011: PRIME Alliance is pleased to inform the smart metering and smart grid community that IPv6 is now supported as a convergence layer over PRIME MAC and PHY layers. Up until now, IPv4 and IEC 61334-4-32 were supported. This important milestone has been achieved through an open and results oriented process within the PRIME Alliance Technical Working Group. This extension of the PRIME standard is expected to pave the way for vendors and utilities that support IPv6 to develop and deploy PRIME smart metering solutions based on IPv6.

Faster and smoother smart metering rollouts

The PRIME Alliance board recently agreed that all members can have access to the details of the protocol between PLC data concentrators and AMM systems that is currently being used in field deployments. This will enable faster and smoother roll-outs, while giving manufacturers the possibility to offer a comprehensive solution, and at the same time facilitate the adoption of end-to-end security mechanisms. This integrated approach is fully aligned with European Commission mandates M/441 and M/490 for the development of an open architecture for smart metering and smart grids.

Adoption of DLMS-COSEM

Another important decision within PRIME Alliance has been the adoption of IEC 62056 suite, more commonly known as DLMS-COSEM, as the preferred choice of application layer for smart grid deployments. This suite is based on open architectures where PRIME lower layers offer a secure, robust and fast communication link. An ad-hoc subgroup within the PRIME Alliance Technical Working Group has been set up to address member's requirements and to establish the corresponding collaboration with DLMS UA.

Half a million PRIME meters deployed

PRIME Alliance, after a year of unprecedented activity advancing open and interoperable communications standards, has seen a tripling of its membership, and an increased number of PRIME certified products in the field from its members. See our website, www.prime-alliance.org - technology section for the most up to date certified products.

Alliance members have deployed more than 500,000 PRIME certified meters in different utilities across Europe, demonstrating impressive field results. Large scale field results show sound system behaviour in stressful environments and outstanding availability in a variety of network topologies. These results are in accordance with the expected behaviour derived from PRIME specifications, in terms of stability, reliability and throughput.

Interoperability goals achieved

Interoperability has been a key goal for PRIME Alliance since its creation in 2009. Two years after its foundation, technology has matured and the final objective to establish a set of open international Power Line Communications standards, permitting interoperability among equipment and systems from different manufacturers, has now been met. This has been achieved in the field after significant testing in multi-vendor environments.

“Growing interest in the Alliance and its efforts underlines the importance and recognition of PRIME as the future standard for power line communication-based smart meters enabling the smart grid vision” said Miguel A. Sanchez Fornie, chairman of the Alliance. *“The PRIME standard now provides a clear path to solving the need for a public, cost-effective smart grid communications infrastructure in support of Europe’s smart metering roadmap.”*

PRIME at Metering Europe

Live views into Member Utilities networks will be demonstrated at the **PRIME Alliance booth G70, at this year’s Metering Billing/CRM Europe 4 – 6 October 2011 in Amsterdam**

The Alliance is open to all potential partners who agree to actively support and promote an open and public specification for the benefit of the end-user and all industry stakeholders. Visit www.prime-alliance.org for more information or to join the Alliance.

As well as the eight founding members, **Iberdrola, STMicroelectronics, Texas Instruments, Landis+Gyr, Itron, CURRENT, ZIV Group and ADD semiconductor**, the Alliance’s worldwide members (in alphabetic order) include **ADD Grup, Apator, CEZ Mereni, Circutor, EDP, Fujitsu Semiconductor, Gas Natural Fenosa, Indra, Iskraemco, ITE, ITRI, Janz, Nucleo, Orbis, Sistema Avanzados de Control, Sagemcom, Sogecam, Telvent and Wasion Group**. Since Metering Europe 2010, new members include metering manufacturers, **IUSA and Elster**; energy services company **GE Energy**; semi-conductors **Enverv Inc, Renesas, Accent spa and Paltek**; IT company **Accenture**; technology provider **Sentec** and electricity distribution association **ASEME**.

With a current membership of **36 (thirty-six)** leading industry companies, this formidable Alliance continues to attract other energy related companies, with many currently going through the membership process.

About PRIME Alliance

PRIME (PowerLine Intelligent Metering Evolution) Alliance was created in 2009 to define an open and future-proofed communications PLC-based infrastructure to support large scale smart metering and other smart grid deployments. The goal of the Alliance is to provide a framework in which the smart metering and smart grid industry have access to open detailed technical specifications in order to develop fully interoperable solutions, which would allow multiple vendors to be operational within the same distribution network in one common system architecture. Detailed technical specs include Physical PHY layer and Medium Access Control MAC layer specifications.

PRIME Alliance provides a forum for the definition, maintenance and support of an open and comprehensive standard for narrowband power line for Smart Grid products and services. The mission of the Alliance is to accelerate the demand for products and services based on this worldwide standard and promote the broad adoption and use of the specification while certifying multi-vendor interoperability and compatibility with the global standard.

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