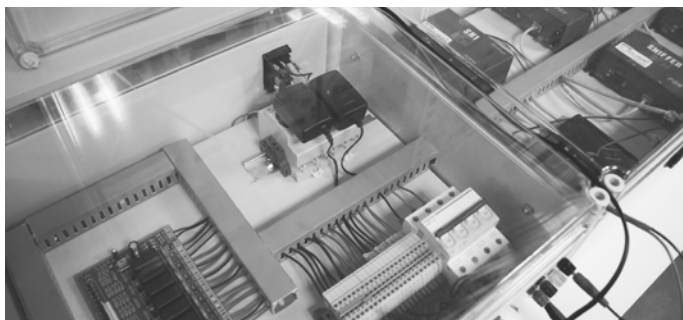# Certification

The Certification process is at the heart of PRIME Alliance, along with interoperability and compliance, two fundamental concepts for PRIME. Independent laboratories – carrying out PRIME testing and certification for our member's products – help ensure these fundamentals are consistently met.

PRIME Alliance's official, documented certification process is defined and maintained by the PRIME Alliance Technical Working group (TWG), taking responsibility for issuing compliance certificates, according to laboratory-issued technical test reports.

Benefits of Certification

Interoperability between different manufacturers is critical for utility companies willing to benefit from a multi-vendor market for smart meter and smart grid deployments. Today, more than 103 different products from 37 different vendors have been certified as PRIME-compliant.

Performance testing by independent laboratories executing system stress tests in field-like conditions allow for intra-PRIME performance comparisons among different vendor products. Performance issues and/or improvements can thus be fixed and improved. This is especially important to overcome challenging network conditions e.g. simulating complex noise and attenuation scenarios.

With large-scale deployments comprising over 20M smart meters worldwide, we have learned the importance of a comprehensive definition of sets of end-to-end tests, and its positive impact on future project implementation.

The Laboratories

PRIME Alliance only trusts highly recognized and competent laboratories; those authorized by PRIME Alliance are leaders in their field. PRIME compliance certification is currently carried out by DNV, ITE and TECNALIA. Laboratories interested in becoming member can get more information on the process by emailing info@prime-alliance.org where the team will be pleased to assist you.

The laboratories also provide pre-certification support, ensuring PRIME Alliance members are well prepared. The test cases used by the laboratories have been defined by experts at the PRIME TWG, with the help of the laboratories. When new versions of PRIME specifications are released, test cases are immediately updated to reflect new features. Automated tools allow laboratories to perform their testing in a professional, repeatable and reproducible way; PRIME Alliance has invested time, money and effort in making those tools available to the Labs.

A unique process

The PRIME Certification process is unique, carefully controlled by PRIME Alliance and a key differentiator for PRIME Alliance members, with neutral laboratories certifying vendor technologies and assuring compliance with PRIME Alliance Standards.

Our strict process provides firm ground for members to develop and test new features and functionalities, going beyond the utility smart metering traditional business.

PRIME is the royalty-free and open standard for the only commercially available, massively deployed, OFDM PLC technology, which ensures true interoperability among equipment and systems from various certified manufacturers.

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