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European utility winners announced



Harry Wildeboer, Executive Partner, Accenture

Vienna, Austria --- (METERING.COM) --- October 4, 2007 - The winners of the European Utility Awards for 2007 were announced on the second day of the 9th Metering, Billing/CRM Europe.

Announcing the winners, Harry Wildeboer, executive partner of Accenture, said that the nominations for the awards represented innovation at all levels of the value chain, from the technology, through the customers and the business.

In the business category the winner was Hanze University for its intelligent infrastructure for consumer energy. The project comprises a smart meter gateway connecting meter, internet and consumer appliances that have been adapted with power line communication and individual energy measurement units. A concept of "negotiating for energy" has been proposed and is now being simulated. While still in its early days and the future will tell if it is a truly workable, cost effective and customer appealing solution the project was felt to be very promising, with major business potential.

In the customer excellence category the winner was Växjö Energi AB & WM-data for its energy efficiency project. The project has involved the development and construction of a smart metering-based feedback system that visualises energy usage in a pedagogical and interesting way to foster greater understanding by customers of their energy consumption. A novel aspect is the inclusion of a pervasive gaming function, which allows customers, individually or as teams, to compete against each other in saving energy. The project was felt to be a very promising practical step towards widespread consumption feedback-based demand response and the creation of a more energy conscious society.

In the innovation category the winner was Sentec Ltd, for its Lattice gas meter technology. Lattice is a fully electronic, extremely low cost gas meter technology that "marks" the gas and measures its flow time between two points to calculate the usage. With AMM/smart functionality added, the total cost will be much lower than can be achieved with hybrid mechanical smart metering solutions, so enabling smart gas meter rollout in territories where previously it has not been economically feasible. Lattice was felt to be an innovation with significant potential for gas metering and smart gas metering in particular.

The annual European Utility Awards are sponsored by Accenture.

The 9th Metering, Billing/CRM Europe is taking place in Vienna, Austria from October 2-4,