

Meters and More ENLIT 2026 Editorial

Following more than 15 years of leadership in the standardization of communication protocols for energy data exchange within smart metering ecosystems, Meters and More has launched a new **Strategic Committee for Requirements (SCR).** The Association's work is designed to support the evolving energy transition and addressing emerging market opportunities for its members and industry stakeholders.

The SCR also reinforces the Association's vision and strategy: *Energy managed by prosumers is a key component of current and future energy systems. Private, domestic and industrial electricity networks will increasingly need to communicate with traditional DSOs through common, interoperable data exchange languages. At the same time, DSOs are advancing LV grid visibility and management to ensure a reliable and sustainable distributed energy system.*

Beyond traditional smart metering, the **Strategic Committee for Requirements** will broaden the Association's areas of interest to encompass **low-voltage (LV) grid observability**, **behind-the-meter applications**, **aggregated customer ecosystems**, and **flexibility services**. This expanded scope will be pursued through the identification and development of new use cases, architectures, and technologies that deliver value to the energy sector. In addition, the **Strategic Committee for Requirements** will provide new inputs and priorities for the evolution of the current Meters and More SMITP standard. This will help address emerging smart metering requirements and pave the way for next-generation rollouts worldwide.

To support this work, the **Strategic Committee for Requirements** will provide strategic and technical input to the existing **Technical Committee for Specifications (TCS)**, which will continue to oversee the core mission of the Association, ensuring the coherent evolution of the SMITP standard and its integration with selected industry standard protocols. The **Technical Committee for Certification (TCC)** will continue to align certification tools and procedures, ensuring that hardware and software solutions developed by the market comply with TCS requirements and maintain interoperability and quality standards.

Four main areas of interest will guide the SCR's initial activities:

1. **Low-Voltage Grid Observability and Smart Metering evolution**

The increasing penetration of distributed renewable generation, together with growing capabilities for customer-side load management, has renewed the interest of Distribution System Operators (DSOs) in obtaining real-time visibility of low-voltage network conditions to support grid optimization.

Meters and More's current smart metering architecture relies on monitoring and control points located at the boundaries of the LV network: the concentrator at the MV/LV substation and the smart meter at the customer's point of delivery. The new Committee will assess DSO requirements for enhanced LV

grid observability and evaluate the evolution of traditional smart metering infrastructures toward next-generation deployments. This includes the evolution of the current SMITP standard and the integration of emerging technologies capable of meeting future grid management, monitoring, and operational needs. The Committee will also assess the potential of Broadband Power Line (BPL) to address new use cases and contribute to the overall cybersecurity strategy.

2. Behind-the-meter Automation

Historically, home and building automation technologies were primarily driven by objectives related to energy efficiency and customer comfort. Today, in an increasingly complex environment, end users face new challenges associated with the monitoring of local intermittent renewable generation and the optimization of flexible electrical loads.

The growing electrification of energy consumption, combined with the deployment of local energy storage systems, is transforming customer installations into small-scale energy ecosystems. This evolution requires a reconsideration of the traditional "behind-the-meter" environment, particularly in light of the limited energy management expertise of many consumers. For commercial and industrial customers, advanced energy automation also creates new business opportunities.

At the same time, the diversity of available technologies and appliances reinforces the need for standardized energy data exchange frameworks. In this context, Meters and More must continue to evolve its solutions, particularly the **Chain2 protocol**, while ensuring alignment with architectures and standards that are widely adopted in residential, commercial, and industrial environments.

3. Aggregated Customers

While individual customers can achieve meaningful energy efficiency gains through automated energy management, their ability to participate independently in energy markets remains limited. Digitalization, supported by evolving regulatory frameworks, is enabling the aggregation of distributed resources and consumers into virtual entities capable of acting as new and relevant market participants.

Across Europe, significant initiatives, projects, and commercial developments are emerging around **energy communities**, which aim to maximize the local consumption of decentralized renewable generation and potentially reduce the need for upgrades to low-voltage distribution networks.

Meters and More is active in the Italian observatory on Energy Communities led by Enea and has already contributed to smart city solutions (e.g. Pell – national street light monitoring) promoting a

protocol for data exchange based on Chain2 and the UNI Urban Data Sets standard. Expanding Meters and More's native protocols and integrating them with existing or newly established ones is a key priority for the Aggregated Customers workstream.

4. Flexibility Markets

New players are pursuing business opportunities arising in the complex distributed energy system. Service providers such as **Aggregators** and **Balance Service Providers (BSPs)** are enabling the

aggregation of distributed prosumers and flexible loads with the primary objective of creating market-relevant flexibility services. These services can support Distribution System Operators and broader energy system needs. The ultimate goal is to optimize energy flows, improve grid efficiency, and reduce the investment required for LV network reinforcement and expansion.

Across these scenarios, the Meter and More ecosystem can facilitate the deployment of interoperable solutions supporting emerging standards, building on the SMITP communication protocol and, in particular, its Chain2 extension.

