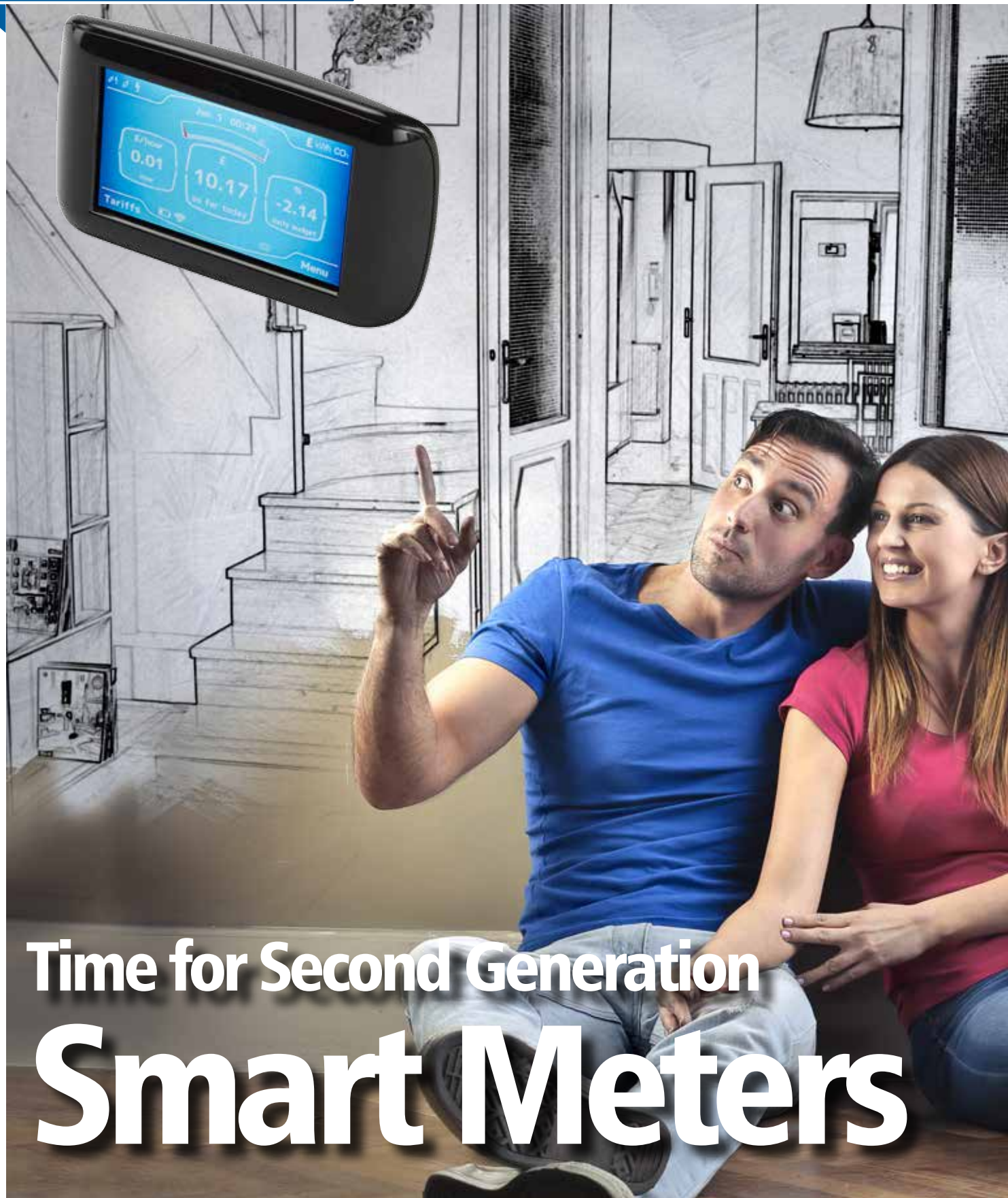




Time for Second Generation Smart Meters



Second Generation Smart Meters (SMETS2) will be installed in the UK households from this year. Smart meters are the new generation of gas and electricity meters which will replace the traditional meters. Installed by the energy supplier, they are the simple way to keep control of the energy use. These are improved edition of the first generation meters. There are three types of smart meters: two in use currently (ADM & SMETS1), and one (SMETS2) available from last April. Only the newest edition- SMETS2 meter, in conjunction with the new systems provided by Data Communication Company (DCC), will allow more options for communications, is more reliable and offer modern features.

The smart meter rollout is an essential technology upgrade, unprecedented in its scale, to improve Great Britain's energy infrastructure. Between now and 2020, every household in England, Scotland and Wales will be offered a smart meter at no extra cost. SMETS2 aims to put an end to billing errors, eliminate the need for manual meter readings and help households reduce energy consumption.

What's the difference between SMETS1 and SMETS2 meters?

- More accurate readings - SMETS1 often shows errors
- Allow for switching suppliers - SMETS1 often were incompatible when energy supplier was changed and data couldn't be shared.
- SMETS2 meters have better connectivity - households in areas where there is poor mobile phone reception will no longer suffer the connectivity issues they had with the first generation meters.
- Lower energy bills - according to British Gas customers save an average of £30 a year by using a smart meter.



Smart meters are designed with a simple to use in-home display which shows how much gas and electricity are used and what it is costing in pounds and pence. At a glance, homeowner can see on the handheld screen whether the electricity use is high, medium or low. Seeing the energy usage allows to more accurately manage energy costs, usage and budgets. Smart meters take regular readings and share these automatically with the energy supplier. Homeowner can choose to send this information daily, weekly or even half

hourly. This means bills will be accurate, not estimated, and there will be no need to have manual meter readings.

Smart Meters can send information about the meter's environment and status as well as meter readings. This information can be used to diagnose meter faults, detect theft and security issues.

Smart meters use their own secure, wireless network using radio waves, like mobile phones or TVs. Smart meters don't use the internet to

send or receive data and an internet connection is not required. All smart meters will link to a similar wireless network outside the household. This network is run by the Data Communications Company, which is overseen by the energy regulator Ofgem. There are strict new regulations and codes of practice to keep smart meter data private, secure and safe.

To get the most out of smart meters, there are mobile apps available for even more user friendly approach towards smart meters. For



instance, mobile phones app launched by OVO displays readings, a current balance and offers comparisons with usage and costs over recent months. Moreover, smart meters will offer time-of-use tariffs and peer-to-peer energy trading, so that customers will be able to track and record their energy usage. Smart data will be used to harness household solar power, battery packs and electric vehicle charging, creating more efficient holistic energy systems.

Energy suppliers plan the installation of smart meters for their customers at various times. The eligibility depends on many different factors, such as the age of the existing meter and the type of the property. Contact the energy supplier about installing the smart meter at your property.

To become the installer of smart meters you need to undertake the training for smart metering (dual fuel). Training is led by the energy companies like SSE or EDF etc. and job opportunities are advertised on their websites or through spe-

cialists recruitment agencies. Successful candidates will be certified by their employer as competent through the Smart Meter Installation Code of Practice (SMICoP) and for power, Meter Operation Code of Practice Agreement (MOCOPA). Gas meter installers must be Gas Safe Registered, this will be organised by their employer following appropriate training.

Claire Maugham, Director of Policy and Communications at Smart Energy GB, said: "More than 8.6 million smart meters have now been installed across Great Britain, transforming the experience of buying and using gas and electricity for millions of people. Our research shows that eight in ten people who have upgraded to a smart meter would recommend them to their family and friends. Smart meters bring an end to estimated bills and show you, in pounds and pence, exactly how much gas and electricity you are using."

Source: (Smart Energy GB)

