Smart Meter Texas

COMPANY PROFILE

▶ A smart meter data repository and communications clearinghouse for customers, retail electric providers, third party market participants and transmission and distribution service providers

▶ Smart Meter Texas is sponsored by a coalition of the four Transmission and Distribution Service Providers (TDSPs) operating in the ERCOT service area

▶ Smart Meter Texas serves as a data repository for approximately 7 million customers serviced by the four TDSPs (Oncor Electric Delivery, AEP Texas, CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, and Texas-New Mexico Power Company)

BUSINESS SITUATION

The majority of the Texas electric power market is deregulated, with the functions of the traditional vertically-integrated electric company unbundled into three separate and distinct companies – power generation companies, Transmission and Distribution Service Providers (TDSPs), and Retail Electric Providers (REPs). TDSPs own and operate the transmission and distribution system and transport electric power to all electric customers within their defined service areas. The TDSPs also provide metering services. In 2007 the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) established a stakeholder driven process to address issues related to the deployment of smart meters. A major result was the creation of Smart Meter Texas to act as a standardized data repository and portal for smart meter data and HAN device management. The Smart Meter Texas web portal began operating in 2010 and has continued to add functionalities identified by the stakeholder collaborative process.

TECHNICAL SITUATION

Smart Meter Texas identified a need to thoroughly document their system's developmental process and technical solution for new market participants who hadn't participated in the stakeholder collaborative, the PUCT, and to provide information to external utilities and regulators who wish to understand the Texas market and how Smart Meter Texas provides a unique solution.

SOLUTION

EnerNex proposed to create two documents to meet the needs of Smart Meter Texas, a short report providing an overview of the Smart Meter Texas solution and a lengthier report to provide additional detail. Several years of documents reviewed included: stakeholder meeting minutes and presentations, use cases and requirements defining the functionality of the Smart Meter Texas web portal, and technical documents used to develop the portal.

Both reports followed a similar content structure including: background on the Texas market for which Smart Meter Texas was developed, the functionality and benefits of the Smart Meter Texas web portal, the methodology used to develop Smart Meter Texas, detailed information about user roles and system interfaces, a discussion of SMT security, the use of industry standards, testing, and operational support.

Smart Meter Texas

BENEFITS

▶ Provided Smart Meter Texas with the desired tools to communicate their solution to interested parties both within and external to the ERCOT market

▶ Provided an extensive survey of the industry standards that were referenced and used during the creation of Smart Meter Texas

▶ Created a comprehensive archive of developmental documents providing traceability to the system's requirements

ENERNEX CAPABILITIES USED

▶ Use case and requirements analysis

▶ Evaluation of industry standards

▶ Technical report writing