

ZigBee Smart Energy gateway introduced

Minnnetonka, MN, U.S.A. --- (METERING.COM) -- The ConnectPort® X2 for Smart Energy gateway that connects ZigBee Smart Energy devices from a home area network (HAN) to an energy service provider via broadband has been introduced by Digi International.



It is the industry's first gateway that connects, controls, or gathers data from ZigBee Smart Energy devices equally well before or with smart meter deployments. When a smart meter is present the gateway can make meter information immediately available to any energy management application. As part of iDigi™ Energy, energy service providers can use the ConnectPort X2 for Smart Energy and iDigi platform to easily integrate thermostats, smart meters, in-home displays, load controllers and other ZigBee Smart Energy devices into complete energy management systems.

"The ConnectPort X2 for Smart Energy provides a standards-based method to connect ZigBee Smart Energy devices and iDigi provides a standards-based application interface," said Larry Kraft, senior vice president of global sales and marketing, Digi International. "Utilities can deploy energy management systems based on the ConnectPort X2 for Smart Energy and iDigi knowing they have maximum future flexibility."

The ConnectPort X2 for Smart Energy can be deployed as a stand alone ZigBee Smart Energy HAN for areas without advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) or participate in an AMI network providing broadband connectivity for enhanced energy management services. Gateways deployed in advance of AMI can join a smart meter based network once it is installed, using iDigi to remotely make all software changes required for an easy upgrade, and always preserving the simplicity of a single energy services portal (ESP) smart energy architecture. The ConnectPort X2 also separates consumers' energy management data from the utility's "cash register" meter network, adding to the security and integrity of the AMI system.

Built on the XBee-PRO® ZB ZigBee module, the ConnectPort X2 for Smart Energy gateway features ZigBee Smart Energy certified firmware enabling compatibility with all devices defined in the ZigBee Smart Energy public application profile. These include ESPs, metering devices, in-premise display devices, programmable communicating thermostats (PCTs), load controllers, range extenders, smart appliances and prepayment terminals.

The ConnectPort X2 for Smart Energy offers Ethernet and ZigBee connectivity. It also features easy-to-use local customizable open scripting standards via Python. This allows customers to leverage the in-home processing capability of the gateway to optimize their energy service offerings. Professional services are also available through Spectrum Design Solutions, Digi's wireless consulting group, to speed development. All Digi gateways can be remotely configured and upgraded using iDigi Energy allowing new services to be offered after the system is installed.