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October 20, 2010

Smart Energy | Digi X-Grid Solution to Integrate Itron ERT Meters



By [Jayashree Adkoli](#)

[TMCnet Contributor](#)

[Digi International](#) announced that [Comverge](#) is leveraging the Digi X-Grid solution to integrate Itron ERT meters into its Intelligent Energy Management platform, IntelliSOURCE. This integration provides near real-time energy data from existing meters, featuring automatic meter reading (AMR). According to Comverge, IntelliSOURCE is an enterprise-class software platform and operating environment that makes intelligent energy management possible.

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[Recently](#), Digi International ([News](#) - [Alert](#)) introduced the new ERT/Ethernet Gateway and ERT/Smart Energy Bridge for Itron ERT meters. This will allow instant connection to smart grids. The products allow online access to gas, water, and electric metering data for Itron's ERT meters.

With the help of Digi X-Grid utilities, the meters can leverage the data to offer a range of energy management services.

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According to Digi International, its Digi X-Grid solution is an "Extended Grid" that enables utilities to inform, empower and engage customers through real-time, IP-based monitoring and control of energy devices that exist beyond the electric meter.

The Digi X-Grid solutions leverage Digi's line of Smart Energy gateways, XBee ZigBee modules and iDigi platform, to make it easy to connect directly to home energy devices. The solutions incorporate the new ERT/Ethernet Gateway ([News](#) - [Alert](#)) and ERT/Smart Energy Bridge as well. These products facilitate utilities to offer a broad range of demand-side management services with or without a smart meter (AMI) network in place.

Officials with Digi said in a statement that the Digi X-Grid solution is called an "Extended Grid" because it extends the grid into a utility's customers' homes supporting a full-range of smart energy thermostats, appliances and smart energy home area network devices.

Officials with Digi said in a press release that the company's Digi X-Grid solution provides easy online access of Itron ERT metering data on the Comverge IntelliSOURCE platform. Consequently, utilities can access real-time actionable energy consumption data using existing investments in AMR meters and network systems.

In addition, Digi also provides the Web-services interface to any application provider as part of the Digi X-Grid solution. As a result, ERT metering information can be collected and presented by a wide range of existing Digi X-Grid application providers enabling utility companies to add new software partners as required.

"The Digi X-Grid solution made it easy for us to quickly integrate support of real-time data from Itron ERT meters," said Bud Vos, chief technology officer of Comverge. "This extends the Comverge IntelliSOURCE platform and helps utilities' transition to the Smart Grid by allowing them to leverage existing networks and meters. Within a matter of weeks we were able to offer this valuable solution to our customers."

"Comverge is a significant partner and leading provider of innovative energy management products and services," said Larry Kraft, senior vice president of sales and marketing at Digi International, in a statement. "Visibility into data is key in the development of a smarter grid, and our Digi X-Grid solution makes it easy to access energy consumption data."

Digi ERT products are ERT certified by Itron and support all ERT "bubble-up" utility meters.

Jayashree Adkoli is a contributing editor for TMCnet. To read more of Jayashree's articles, please visit her [columnist page](#).

Edited by [Jaclyn Allard](#)



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Technology Marketing Corporation,
 800 Connecticut Ave, 1st Floor East
 Norwalk, CT 06854 USA
 Ph: 800-243-6002, 203-852-6800; Fx:
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