



Stadtwerke Balingen; New orientation after an AMI fieldtest – Albstadtwerke replaces radio ripple control by Unified Intelligent Energy Management from ubitronix.

A major decision has been taken in the smart metering pilot of the Albstadtwerke and the Stadtwerke Balingen (2 Austrian city-utilities), in which two different energy management systems from different vendors have been tested: Balingen will complete its field test with a major German supplier and will switch over to the Unified Intelligent Energy Management of ubitronix.

The Stadwerke Balling has opted for the energy management solution, successfully tested since 2009, in the pilot of Albstadtwerke. The conversion will be quite simple: Balingen will use the Unified IEM as a client in the system of Albstadtwerke. "We switch over to ubitronix because it has been shown that its energy management system can be implemented in a more cost-effective way than the one tested by us. We are also convinced that Unified IEM has the functionality and above all the openness for the implementation of future requirements", explains Harald Eppler, technical plant manager at Stadtwerke Balingen, the decision.

In 2009 the smart metering pilot of Albstadtwerke and Stadtwerke Balingen started as a field test, and should demonstrate the ad- and disadvantages of two different system suppliers in practice. Important requirement: They were looking after an that could be easily integrated into the existing environment of the city-utilities without a need of an extensive IT infrastructure. In addition, the energy management solution should be open to different meter-manufacturers as well as various communication media and protocols. In Balingen one of the largest German supplier was selected to execute the pilot, the Albstadtwerke on the other hand, selected the from the small Austrian technology company ubitronix.

In the Albstadtwerke pilot the Ubitronix system proved itself very quickly: Within days, the first electronic meters were connected via Plug & Play. The Unified IEM was installed as a web solution on the provider's servers. The analysis of the obtained smart metering data in Albstadt showed a major simplification for the utility, for instance at the relocation of a tenant. Apart from that the utility successfully tested the implementation of new requirements, such as the management of time- and load-dependent tariffs. Thanks to this success in the pilot of the Albstadtwerke, Stadtwerke Balingen will immediately switchover to Unified Intelligent Energy Management solution as a client in the system of Albstadtwerke.

Electronic load-control

The Albstadtwerke, as well as the Stadtwerke Balingen, they already work on the next technology step: In future the intelligent energy management system should not only read data, but should also actively manage load profiles. In the next few months Albstadtwerke will replace their radio network controller in their distribution network by 400 load-switching devices of ubitronix. The Unified IEM energy management system equipped with a dedicated load control program will use digital meters to operate the different loads individually. In this way large consumers, such as electric boilers or heat pumps, can be controlled individually so that individual peak loads will be avoided. All load switches are individually accessible from one central point. Additionally, street lighting can be included in this concept - with the possibility to selectively dim or switch on/off of complete streets down to the individual luminaires.

Further information:

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