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## Press Release

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### **Digitalisation of the Energiewende: EnBW and PPC extend collaboration**

EnBW and Power Plus Communications (PPC) have announced ever-closer cooperation in the deployment of Intelligent Metering Systems. Central to the cooperation are the integration of smart meter gateways (SMGW) and data communications based on broadband powerline (BPL).

The security architecture of IT networks and the transition of mobile networks to the new IPv6 Internet Protocol standard also play an important role. Both companies have the development of new products and services related to the digitalisation of smart metering and smart grid applications in their sights.

Netze BW became a third party in the collaboration, after signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on July 19. As the largest distribution network operator in the southwest of Germany, the subsidiary of EnBW is currently undertaking the most comprehensive pilot test in the country. By autumn, they will have installed around 20,000 Intelligent Metering Systems as defined by the German Digitalisation Act. (*Gesetz zur Digitalisierung der Energiewende*\*).

PPC's smart meter gateways have been shown in field tests to be particularly compatible with a wide variety of meters, and have been successfully trialled with Landis + Gyr and Fröschl gateway administration systems. One-third of the SMGWs installed will be fitted with integrated mobile communication modules, and the rest with BPL modules.

'The compatibility and interoperability of the hardware and software components from different vendors is a critical success factor for us' said Arkadius Jarek, Project Manager at Netze BW. 'To integrate PPC as one of the leading companies in the field of BPL is therefore only logical'.

As Head of Metering and EDM Services at EnBW, Jürgen Boda expects of the collaboration, 'that we can extend our modular services to other operators around the rollout and operation of Intelligent Metering Systems'.

CEO of PPC Ingo Schönberg is looking forward to 'the challenge of helping EnBW in one of the largest pilot deployments of Intelligent Metering Systems. A successful digitalisation strategy relies on powerful communication solutions such as BPL and LTE, as well as on sustainable standards such as IPv6.'

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\* On 8 July 2016, the “*Digitalisation of the Energiewende Act*” cleared the final legislative hurdle in the German Federal Council (*Bundesrat*). The new law initiates the roll-out of smart meters and related infrastructure in Germany, and defines the future roles and tasks for all market participants. The Act is based on the “Third Internal Market Package” introduced by the EU in 2009. The Directives of this Package requires all EU member states to equip at least 80% of consumers with intelligent metering systems by 2020, subject to a positive national commercial assessment of the roll-out. The key objective of the Act is to facilitate the implementation of smart meters and Smart Meter Gateways, which ensure the meter data security. The Act introduces specific and detailed requirements, both for the design of the smart meter devices and for the transmission of data. The overall goal is to open up the German energy market to digitalisation, while ensuring a high standard of data protection and ICT security.

### **About PPC**

Power Plus Communications AG ([www.ppc-ag.de](http://www.ppc-ag.de)) is the leading provider of Smart Meter Gateways, and Broadband Powerline (BPL) communication systems for the digitisation of the energy transformation (*Energiewende*). The technology company headquartered in Mannheim has won awards for its innovations and is a leading partner of many utilities and communications network operators. As a pioneer in Broadband Powerline technology, PPC has many years of experience and expertise in the energy and telecommunications sectors. PPC offers a complete Smart Meter Gateway portfolio (M2M Wireless: LTE & GPRS, Broadband Powerline, and Ethernet).

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