

### **First Trials For Smart Energy Meters In Britain**

UK energy regulator Ofgem is to administer the first large-scale trials in Britain of advanced energy meters that could help household energy consumption. Under a £10 million government program, match-funded by four energy suppliers, meters will be fitted in around 15,000 British homes to provide feedback on whether they help customers improve household energy efficiency. A further 8000 homes will receive stand-alone display units showing energy use in pounds and pence. The trials – to be administered by Ofgem over the next two years – will test how customers react to these new devices and to clearer, more frequent energy bills. Ofgem has formed an industry-wide group to agree minimum standards for the smart meters and to consider changes in industry rules to allow the industry to use the meters more widely. Ofgem will also provide six-monthly reports to government on the trials, and a final report once the trials are completed in 2010.

[Source esaa news]