SAP Meter Reading Planning & Smart Meter Rollout by PROLOGA

THE SMART SOLUTION FOR YOUR BUSINESS PROCESSES

Whether conventional meter readings or region wide mass rollout – strategic planning is essential for the success of your business processes. SAP Meter Reading Planning & Smart Meter Rollout by PROLOGA is the right decision for the smart processing of your planning activities.

Nuclear power phase-out, decentralized renewable energy supply, improved energy efficiency – all these keywords are controversially discussed by policy, economy and society in the course of the energy turnaround. In Europe, the need for a suitable transformation of the energy sector becomes more and more inevitable by passing new legislations such as the Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU) and the Third Single Energy Market Package (2009/72/EC).

A New Metering Age

Planning and developing smart grids is very important for an active feed-in management to control the decentralized generation grid. However, in order to use smart grids effectively, it is necessary to exchange any standard analog meter and provide smart meters to all households. The Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU) underlines the importance of smart metering systems. Since 2010 smart meters are the standard metering infrastructure that all electricity distributors need to install in new or refurbished premises. The new standard digital meters provide consumers with access to more detailed information about their consumption and to new flexible pricing options that may help some households save money. The European Commission's objective is to replace 80 percent of the existing meters with smart metering systems until 2020. Even if the EU member states had the chance to check the plausibility of the proposed timeframe with the aid of efficiency audits, the rollout of smart metering systems will be inevitable for utility companies.

For sure we are all striving for a sustainable future. And smart meters might be one way of sensitizing people to their energy and water consumption while utility companies can use resources more efficiently. But you have to plant before you harvest. Therefore, have you ever thought about the effort that comes with such an exchange? The math is easy – but what about your rollout planning?

Take up the challenge and be prepared with SAP Meter Reading Planning & Smart Meter Rollout.

In consequence of temporal restrictions, it is not possible to execute the meter exchange during a conventional maintenance such as the periodic meter replacement. It involves as well different technical and logistical challenges. Millions of meters must be replaced in a relatively short time. Furthermore, the financial burden for the consumer needs to be as small as possible. In order to meet the strict timeframe and to guarantee a precise and strategic approach, a region wide rollout seems to be the only possibility.

Be Smart in Planning Your Rollout

SAP Meter Reading Planning & Smart Meter Rollout uses your internal know how of current exchange processes and helps you to create and optimize your planning scenarios for a mass rollout.

As an extension of SAP for Utilities, SAP Meter Reading Planning & Smart

Meter Rollout supports you in planning, processing and coordinating your smart meter rollout. The strategic replacement is based on a two-stage approach (see figure 1). This distinguishes our solution fundamentally from other solution providers.

What is your benefit? Managing mass data without having to handle excessive system loads. Especially, our mobile solution combined with a specific preliminary planning of the replacement areas helps you to realize a controlled and effective meter replacement.

Planning: The Essential Factor

SAP Meter Reading Planning & Smart Meter Rollout supports your IT-based conception of a meter mass rollout. Only a careful planning of your processes will put you on the road to success. The solution applies the "divide and conquer"
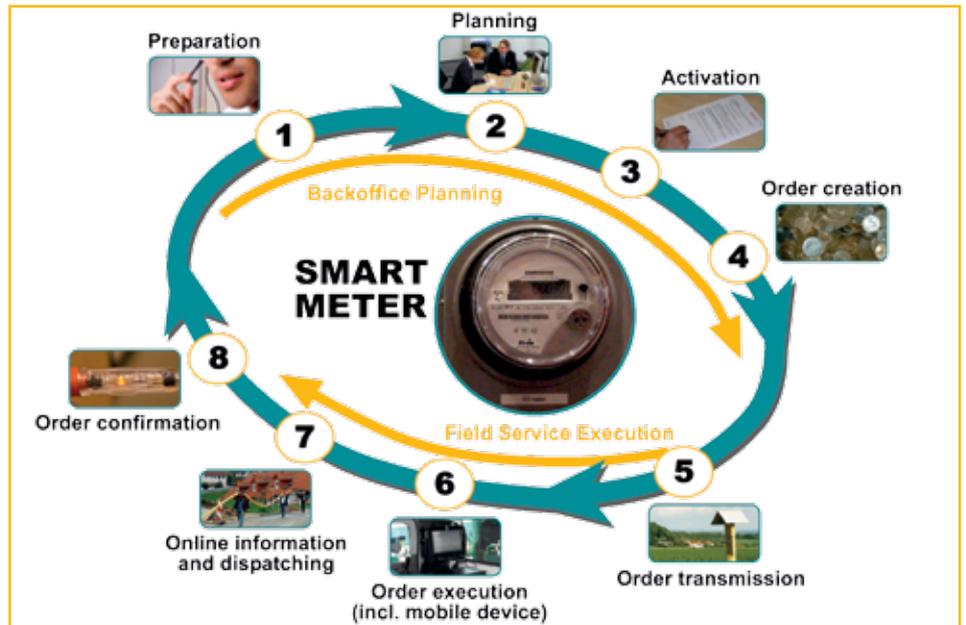

Fig. 1: Two-stage approach of the strategic meter reader replacement

approach known from the information technology. The planning component of SAP Smart Meter Reading Planning & Smart Meter Rollout enables you to define sub-regions for your installation area. In that way, you divide a large and hardly comprehensible amount of technical locations into smaller planning portions with similar installation requirements, using criteria such as device type, regional structure, grid operator etc.

One additional highlight is the possibility to color mark different areas in various sizes on an integrated geographical map. As a new feature you can also define characteristics for classifications and use them during your planning process. Hence, effort calculations per installation period and time scheduling are no problem anymore. With the help of SAP Meter Reading Planning & Smart Meter Rollout, you are able to create a best-fit scenario for all planning areas managing your human as well as financial resources more effectively.
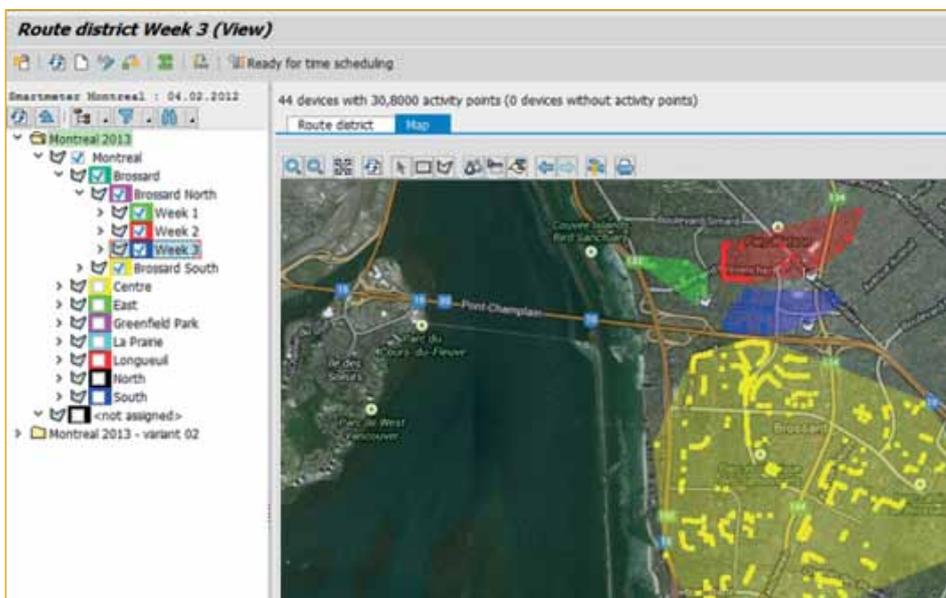

Fig. 2: Dividing the installation area into sub-regions

After the planning of the areas has been finished, the scenarios can be activated for chosen areas. At the same time the service orders for these areas are created in the SAP ERP system. The main benefit of that approach: By activating the areas gradually the system load remains manageable. Time-consuming areas, for example, can be activated during off-peak hours with adequate free personnel resources. Conclusions from areas which were already activated might be drawn on for further planning scenarios providing a huge potential for optimizing similar structured areas. That is why a permanent performance analysis is important for the entire exchange process.

Especially, the long term planning helps you to realize your mass rollout successfully. Following the IT-supported long term planning in which you laid the foundation for the general processing of

an area, the created orders can now be scheduled and assigned to your service teams or to external service providers.

With Mobility to Success

Our solution also includes a mobile application. The application enables you to transmit orders separately or as a complete task list including all required data from the backend system to a mobile device. Your technicians on-site will now be able to process the orders flexible and in a timely manner. Each work step is confirmed on the mobile device and the data immediately sent to your SAP IS-U or PM system. Important order details such as past meter readings, reader type or information about the new meter reader can be accessed in no time. It is possible to monitor the workflow from the central office having up-to-date information always at hand. Moreover, your

field staff can document the situation on-site, take pictures or store drafts in the PDA, which are transferred to the backend, as well. When using SAP Meter Reading Planning & Smart Meter Rollout you are flexible, effective and prepared for all local conditions.

In addition to scheduling mass meter rollouts, you are able to plan your conventional meter reading routes with all the advantages of the described planning principles. Take the opportunity and benefit from:

- Reliable planning results with a minimum resource input
- Integrated strategy for planning mass data with minimized system load
- Minimizing commercial risks by improving the device and work time management
- Accessing near real-time data to support management decisions
- Increased customer loyalty through a detailed planning and faster implementation of flexible rates
- Integration of messages and other documents (e.g. photos)
- Reducing the error rate by capturing and confirming data on mobile devices

SAP Meter Reading Planning & Smart Meter Rollout, your solution for the smart processing of your planning activities.

Fig. 3: Order details, including time scheduling and process status

Quick Facts

Summary

SAP Meter Reading Planning & Smart Meter Rollout by PROLOGA provides you with an integrated approach for the most comprehensive support of the strategic and operational planning of your mass meter rollout or your conventional meter reading activities. With SAP Meter Reading Planning & Smart Meter Rollout by PROLOGA you are perfectly prepared to realize your planning scenarios precisely and safely.

Business Challenges

- Selective investments to keep time to market as short as possible
- Streamlining workflows through a strategically planned rollout
- Complying to legal regulations under consideration of a restricted timeframe

Key Features

- Create reliable planning results with a minimum resource input
- Create several planning scenarios to compare and define the best exchange strategy
- Integrate map material for a better view on areas to be planned
- Integrate external service providers to execute the meter replacement
- Capture, transmit and check meter readings
- Documentation of meter readings (e.g. photos)

Business Benefits

- Map all relevant data in one software system
- Integrated strategy to plan the rollout with mass data
- Minimized commercial risks by improving your device and work time management
- Supported management decisions by accessing near real-time data
- Increased customer loyalty as a result of detailed planning and faster implementation of flexible rates
- Optimized strategic performance through near real-time analysis
- Derivation of improvement potential in planning
- Reduced error rate by capturing and confirming data on mobile devices

SAP price list material no.

7016763

More Information

To learn more about SAP Meter Reading Planning & Smart Meter Rollout by PROLOGA and the opportunities this application presents for your company, please contact your SAP representative.