

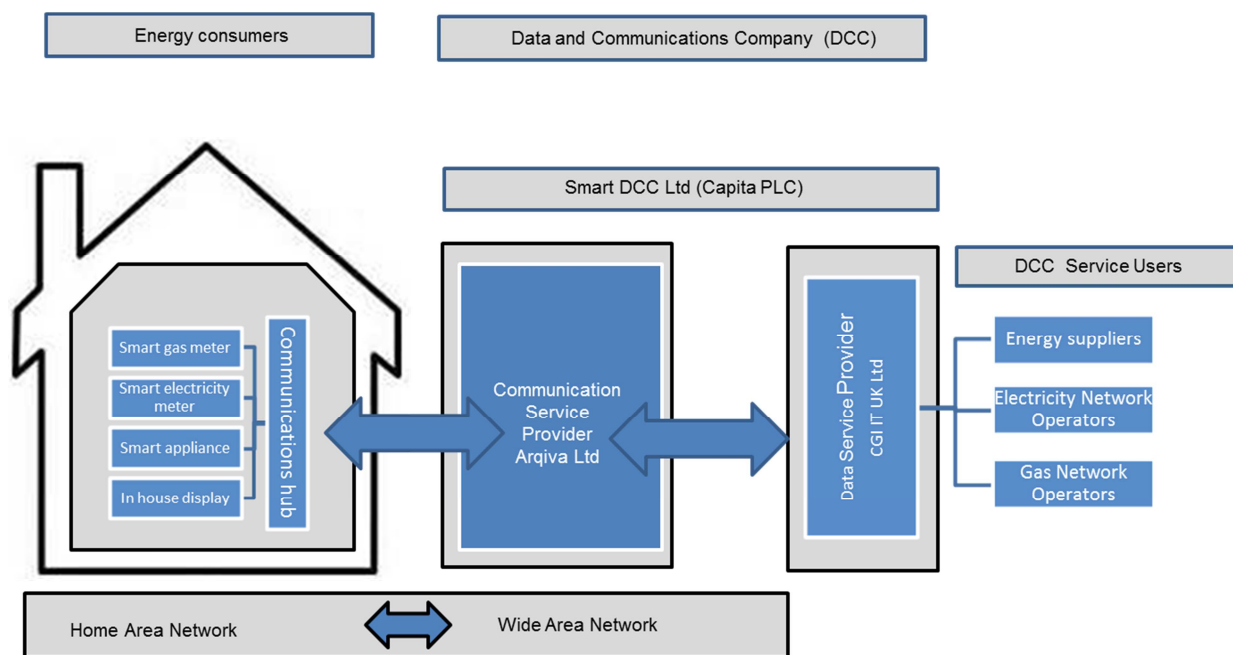
The Smart Metering Network

The Smart Metering programme is described in the enclosed leaflet.

The Wide Area Network

In Scotland and Northern England Arqiva is responsible for providing the Wide Area Network that connects Smart Metering equipment in consumers' homes and businesses to the energy suppliers and network operators.

To do this we need to establish a network of Smart Metering base stations that communicate by radio with the Smart Metering equipment.



Smart Metering Base Stations

Smart metering base stations consist of a set of radio antennas mounted on a tall structure (either an existing one, such as a mast, rooftop or water tower, or a new purpose-built structure if no alternative is available) connected to a cabinet containing radio transmitting equipment.

Smart Metering base stations need to be located where they can provide the connectivity for the smart metering network. This means they have to be relatively close to the communications hubs in consumers' homes and businesses. The base

stations must be securely located and accessible for maintenance. They need an electricity supply and a telecommunications connection to transmit the data they have collected back to the energy suppliers.

Safety

Smart Metering base stations emit nothing other than ordinary radio signals. They are required to comply with nationally and internationally accepted safety guidelines and certificates to this effect are provided by Arqiva with all planning applications. Arqiva can provide more information on the safety of its equipment if required.

Arqiva

Arqiva is a British company which builds, owns, hosts and operates shared radio communications infrastructure. Arqiva owns and operates the UK's TV and radio broadcasting transmitter network and it hosts a large number of other radio transmission services on its sites.

