

Safe and innovative gas metering

A world-leading technology and services company, US-based Itron provides comprehensive solutions that measure, manage and analyse energy and water. Annette Gardiner, vice president of strategic development, highlights their leadership in automating gas meter data collection. "Itron sees its role in the market as an innovator—with our next-generation advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) solution, OpenWay Riva, Itron builds on our proven leadership in the gas industry and Itron's 60 million connected gas devices deployed by gas utilities across the globe," said Gardiner.

With origins dating back more than 100 years, Itron today is a global organisation with more than 8,000 customers in 100 countries worldwide. The company is the long-time leader in automating gas meter data collection, delivering more than 60 million gas communications modules in North America alone. "We have deep knowledge of gas utility operations and communication technology and continue invest in our solution offerings to deliver unparalleled levels of quality and service to our customers," said Gardiner.

Dedicated to moving beyond metering, Itron developed the OpenWay Riva IoT solution to harness the power of the

Active Network. The first-of-its-kind, OpenWay Riva unlocks the potential of IoT solutions for energy management. OpenWay Riva is designed to unite utility and city services in a single, multi-purpose network, which anticipates problems, improves efficiency and uses coordinated analysis to create new opportunities to adapt to customer needs in a rapidly changing market. For gas, new applications are emerging to monitor pressure, temperature, gas quality and pipeline stress via strain gauges and cathodic protection. This helps gas utilities engage in pipeline integrity management, perform pressure studies, meet cathodic protection compliance and handle emergencies. Imagine a sensor that detects seismic activity and strobes streetlights in high consequence areas to help utilities be more responsive.

Itron continues to win customers through these innovative technologies, recently signing a contract with Peoples Natural Gas. This will give Peoples Natural Gas the ability to automate meter reading and enable a multi-purpose network for smart gas and smart city applications in the future.

"The natural gas industry faces many challenges – natural disasters such as



hurricanes and other extreme weather events, flooding, earthquakes—as well as the inherent nature of gas itself, which has safety implications," Gardiner pointed out. "Itron views its role in the market as an innovator and partner to gas utilities. We are utilising the power of the Internet of Things and our OpenWay Riva IoT solution to overcome these challenges by giving gas utilities the ability to enhance safety and maintain the system integrity of their gas distribution system in new ways. Gas utilities may now add additional devices to their metering network to monitor pipeline stress, pressure, temperature and overall gas quality, just to name a few."



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