

# Future-Proof Your Water Meter Technology With AMI

By Kamel Chaabane, Itron

Water scarcity, water revenue loss, and water purity are some of the most universal challenges utilities face around the world. Modern water solutions for an industry in transition help utilities protect our most precious resource.

Everything from reducing costs and implementing conservation programs to dealing with unbilled consumption, physical issues, and new regulations impacts the ability to serve consumers effectively.

Because you can't track what you can't measure, modern solutions bridge the gap between the vision of secure water and the reality of existing infrastructure.

## Tools That Monitor And Track

Water distribution systems are solving challenges such as aging infrastructure, extreme environmental conditions, and inefficient operations with modern meters and sensors to track consumption, detect leaks, and provide accurate data for billing and operational purposes.

The most efficient metering in North America is advanced metering infrastructure (AMI). It provides water companies with the data they need to accelerate operational efficiency, reduce costs, detect leaks, and increase consumer satisfaction and engagement. AMI systems automatically transmit consumption data continuously to the utility. This continuous monitoring and tracking allow usage (and leaks) to be more accurately and quickly identified.

Automated meter reading (AMR) devices are also common in North America. These older metering systems allow meter reading (data collection) to occur by walking or driving by meters and picking up AMR signals. Data is checked periodically, so it often takes longer than AMI systems to detect leaks, drips, and water loss.

## Good Data Makes Happy Customers

Increased data is good for revenue, but it's also good for consumers. Water scarcity is in the news as many communities

worldwide struggle to ensure adequate clean water for their growing populations. Water consumers expect companies to collect timely, precise data on usage for accurate billing and to support local conservation practices. When they rely on older model meter systems, they can't find the drips and small leaks that add up to millions of gallons of wasted water. Upgrading to an AMI system helps businesses engage their customers in water conservation and demonstrates their commitment to preserving the environment.

## Managing The Meter Data

Collecting the data is half the solution – the other is managing it to provide information and actionable insights to your utility. That is the job of a meter data management system. Itron's Temetra™ solution is a powerful meter data management tool collecting AMI or AMR data from various meter sources. It can identify locations and data and feed them into the business operations they belong in. For example, Temetra takes metering

data and identifies its source, sharing consumption data with billing systems, anomaly data with leak detection systems, and more.

A simple user interface makes it easy to learn and use. Its cloud-based software is continuously and automatically updated, making it future-proof for the next generation of metering technology advancements. With a solution like Temetra, utilities can access data through a single platform via a desktop, laptop, tablet, or smartphone, which reduces the learning curve for new employees and

provides accessibility from anywhere. The software also includes advanced search tools to prioritize and thoroughly investigate the most relevant information. Finally, Temetra's software can be updated remotely and regularly without additional investment.

#### **Temetra's Next-Generation Solution**

Temetra is Itron's next-generation meter data collection and management solution, providing new ways to optimize utility operations and improve customer engagement. As a fully featured AMI head end and AMR collection system, Temetra

provides a complete, cutting-edge data collection package in the cloud. ■

---

#### **About the Author**

Kamel Chaabane is a Senior Product Manager at Itron, Inc.

#### **About Itron**

At Itron, we're dedicated to creating a more resourceful world. Together with our customers, we work to improve the quality of life, ensure safety, and promote the well-being of people everywhere.