

# AT&T: A Smart Choice for Utilities



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The key to fully tapping the promise of the smart grid in the electric utility industry is highly secure and reliable communications—without that the data is, essentially, meaningless. One company that knows a great deal about providing such communication services is AT&T, and it is moving forcefully into this market, offering utilities a trusted provider to manage the backbone networks that will make the smart grid a reality.

AT&T already has teamed up with Itron, SmartSynch, Cooper Power Systems and Silver Spring Networks to provide a suite of solutions for utilities looking to move forward with their smart grid installation plans. In this effort, AT&T is drawing on its industry-leading role in enabling highly secure 3G wireless communications to simplify the digital transition for the electric utility industry. With its crucial behind-the-scenes communications needs taken care of, the industry will be better positioned to complete the smart grid rollout.

The smart grid is often mistakenly thought of solely in terms of meter solutions. However, the smart grid encompasses the entire grid—it must be used to control and manage the grid, to communicate with customers about their usage, and to improve the utility's environmental footprint. While the smart grid is starting with meter reads and outage information, it will soon progress to a two-way, interactive real-time relationship with an increasing amount of data to transmit and manage. The management, processing and storage requirements will create opportunities for AT&T to assist energy companies in meeting these goals. Toward this end, all of AT&T's traditional products and services—highly secure communications over wireless and wired networks, data storage, hosting and network management— are ready to help meet this demand for secure communications and efficient data management.

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