



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Arqiva plans Smart Grid trial with government grant**

- **Arqiva awarded £212,563 grant under the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) Smart Grid Capital Grants Programme**
- **Arqiva to use grant to part-fund deployment of a proof-of-concept Smart Grid network**

Arqiva, the communications infrastructure and media services company, today announced that it has been awarded a £212,563 grant by DECC under its Smart Grid Capital Grants Programme. The grant will be used by Arqiva to build a Smart Grid proof-of-concept network using Arqiva's long-range radio solution. The network will enable Arqiva, utility companies and vendors to conduct a range of Smart Grid configuration and performance tests. Importantly, the infrastructure used in this network can form an integral part of a wider Smart Meter deployment

Arqiva believes that the Smart Grid network will also provide a showcase of key importance to distribution network operators, equipment vendors within the electricity, gas and water sectors and any other stakeholders with an interest in Smart Grid technology.

David Green, programme director for smart metering at Arqiva commented: "This is recognition that a long-range radio solution merits investment and further investigation. Arqiva is totally committed to this solution and the grant will help us to test the benefits of a long-range radio solution on a much wider scale, in particular testing the demands of a Smart Grid deployment. A dedicated data-transport network using long-range radio means complete security, resilience and universal availability – even deep into buildings."

A spokesperson for DECC said: "The Smart Grid Capital Grant programme is intended to foster ongoing learning, capability development and evaluation in the emerging space of smart grid. When reviewing submissions we have also been looking for organisations that are prepared to fully engage with the challenges associated with the development and

operation of a Smart Grid. Arqiva as an organisation and its submission demonstrated all of these characteristics so we have been pleased to provide them with this grant.”

Arqiva’s work on long-range radio solutions for smart metering and smart grids reached an important stage in December 2009 when an exclusive partnership was announced with Sensus, the leading North American smart-grid specialists.

Arqiva believes that high network availability will be fundamental to the deployment of a Smart Grid – messages and instructions need to arrive rapidly and reliably at all relevant smart end-points. To deliver this availability, and to ensure security, it is critical that the Smart Grid transport network is protected against hacking, viruses, denial-of-service attacks and the demands of third-party applications. Furthermore, once the Smart Grid transport network is installed, it is likely that it will need to remain operational and provide stable performance for 20 years or more.

- Ends -

#### **About Arqiva**

Arqiva operates at the heart of the broadcast and mobile communications industry and is at the forefront of network solutions and services in an increasingly digital world. The company provides much of the infrastructure behind television, radio and wireless communications in the UK and has a significant presence in Ireland, mainland Europe and the USA. There are three business units:

**Wireless Access** provides cellular, wireless broadband, voice and data solutions for the mobile communications, public safety, local government, and commercial markets. Arqiva is the largest independent provider of radio sites in the UK and Ireland. With its own spectrum, the company can provide complete mobile communications networks including backhaul links.

**Terrestrial Broadcast** provides transmission for all UK terrestrial TV broadcasters, including the new networks being built for the Digital Switch Over. Transmission is also provided for BBC Radio and most commercial radio stations, both analogue and DAB. The company owns and operates two of the six UK digital terrestrial TV multiplexes, enabling major media companies to bring their TV and radio services to Freeview.

**Satellite & Media** provides global communication platforms to enterprise, government and broadcast customers around the world. It owns and operates teleports at key locations including Los Angeles, Washington, London and Paris, as well as comprehensive satellite capacity, an international terrestrial fibre network and extensive media facilities. These enable Arqiva to provide world leading organisations with a comprehensive range of services to deliver their data, broadcasts and media across the globe.

Arqiva has its headquarters near Winchester and other major UK offices in London, Warwick, Buckinghamshire and Yorkshire. Customers include major broadcasters such as the BBC, ITV, BSkyB and the independent radio groups, major telco providers including the UK’s five mobile network operators, and the emergency services.

[www.arqiva.com](http://www.arqiva.com)

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### **About Sensus**

Sensus creates innovative technology solutions that enable the conservation of water and energy. Sensus has led the discovery, development, and implementation of technologies for the energy and water industries for more than a century. Water, gas, and electric utility customers around the world benefit from the company's open, flexible products and solutions to help them optimize their resources – today and tomorrow. Headquartered in Raleigh, N.C., USA, Sensus serves customers from locations throughout the Americas, Europe, Africa and Asia. For more information, visit [www.sensus.com](http://www.sensus.com).

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### **For more information, please contact:**

Alistair Kent  
Harvard Public Relations  
Tel: +44 (0) 207 861 2800  
email: [arqiva@harvard.co.uk](mailto:arqiva@harvard.co.uk)

Bruce Randall  
Arqiva, Winchester  
Tel: +44 (0)1962 822582  
email: [press.office@arqiva.com](mailto:press.office@arqiva.com)