

Elster Improves Technology Infrastructure Using Oracle Database, Oracle Enterprise Linux, and Oracle Real Application Clusters



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Industry:
Utilities

Employees:
7,500

Oracle Products and Services:

Oracle Database Enterprise Edition
Oracle Database Standard Edition
Oracle Enterprise Linux
Oracle Data Guard
Oracle Real Application Clusters

Key Benefits:

- Improved scalability
- High availability

“Oracle’s technology portfolio assists us in developing reliable and scalable enterprise-class systems to meet the AMI and smart grid business needs of our utility customers.”

—Raymond Kelley, Vice President, Software Development, Elster Integrated Solutions

The EnergyAxis System is an advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) system that enables utilities to build and support the smart grid. Elster has deployed more than 60 EnergyAxis Systems worldwide. These deployments utilize full two-way intelligent devices, and they can scale up to the largest two-way AMI systems in operation.

AMI systems that support the smart grid must be capable of providing control over millions of electric, gas, and water metering endpoints, as well as millions of demand response devices such as smart thermostats, displays, and load control devices. Control operations can include device reconfiguration, over-the-air firmware flash updates, utility service connects and disconnects, load shed, and temperature set point adjustments. Elster AMI systems that support the smart grid leverage a vast network of intelligent devices to receive and process events and alarms such as power outage notifications, restoration notifications, and min/max voltage threshold notifications. Another primary function of these AMI systems is the collection of interval, time-of-use, voltage, outage, and status data from the millions of intelligent devices.

One of the greatest challenges in designing an enterprise-class system such as Elster’s EnergyAxis System is to incorporate reliability, scalability, and security into the solution, while minimizing the administration and maintenance required for deployment and operation.

To help meet these challenges, Elster employed Oracle's embedded technology. Elster's EnergyAxis System uses an embedded Oracle Database as a secure and scalable platform. The embedded Oracle Database enables Elster to deliver complete solutions to customers while lowering total cost of ownership through reduced acquisition, implementation, and maintenance costs. Cloning template technology in the embedded silent installation makes deployment easy, fast, and invisible to the end user.

Removing the administration burden from end users also lowers the cost of ownership and improves the overall security of the solution.

Elster automates system administration tasks and utilizes Oracle core technologies for locally managed table spaces, automatic memory statistics collection, automated physical and logical backups, configured flash recovery area, flashback technology, differential incremental daily backups, data recovery advisor, and enterprise management.

Elster leverages these Oracle capabilities, as well as Oracle Data Guard and Oracle Real Application Clusters, to implement and deploy enterprise-class systems that are reliable, scalable, high-performance, and easy to maintain.

About Elster

Elster Group is a world leader in advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) and integrated metering and utilization solutions for the gas, electricity, and water industries. Elster's high-quality AMI products, systems, and solutions reflect the wealth of knowledge and experience gained from more than 170 years of dedication to measuring precious resources and energy. Elster provides world-class solutions and advanced technologies to help utilities more easily, efficiently, and reliably obtain and use advanced metering intelligence to improve customer service, enhance operational efficiency, and increase revenues. Elster's AMI solutions enable utilities to cost-effectively generate, deliver, manage, and conserve the essential resources of gas, electricity, and water. The group has more than 7,500 employees, and operations in 38 countries in North and South America, Europe, and Asia.