



Installing and managing meters: Elia's know-how at grid users' disposal

For invoicing, Elia works on the basis of the amounts of energy that the grid users' electrical facilities inject into or take from the grid. These amounts are measured by meters that are installed and managed by Elia. The metering data are essential for Elia: they enable the company to invoice its access services, calculate the ARP balance, and determine the quantities of energy provided by the supplier, to give just a few examples.

Moreover, if grid users want, they can draw on the expertise that Elia has acquired in metering. To meet some of their specific requirements (e.g. internal invoicing, controlling consumption, obtaining green certificates), they can also ask Elia to provide meters and install them on their premises. At grid users' request, Elia can also take care of managing the meters.

I. Installing and managing meters: principles

Elia makes a distinction between two types of meters: invoicing meters (or regulated meters), which Elia uses for invoicing and creating the curves provided to the various market players (ARPs, suppliers, etc.); and additional meters which grid users utilise to meet their specific requirements.

I.1. Invoicing meters

Invoicing meters belong to Elia. They collect the data which Elia uses for invoicing and creating the curves provided to the various market players. Elia complies with the rules of confidentiality in these activities.

- the meters can be installed in the connection bay, allowing the electricity offtakes and injections occurring on the Elia grid to be quantified for a users facilities;
- if a number of users access the grid using a single shared connection, the meters can be installed in the user's own electrical facilities. The fact that the meters are directly linked to the user makes it possible to individually determine every user's injections and offtakes. If the user has a local generating site, meters are also directly linked to the generating facilities to collect the data needed for calculating the value of the gross limited energy.

I.2. Additional meters

Grid users often have to meet specific requirements that make access to certain metering data absolutely essential. These data allow users to:

- invoice entities internally within their own company;
- control consumption over various processes;
- provide the regulators with metering data with a view to obtaining green certificates.

To collect the data, grid users may ask Elia to:

- provide and install meters on their site (for instance, linking them to machines, production units, etc.);
- take care of managing the meters: regular calibration, as well as maintenance and minor repairs;
- provide load curves for the meters managed by Elia (see sheet "Quarter-hourly data").

Grid users choosing Elia to manage their meters and provide their quarter-hourly data curves will be able to consult all the data supplied by the invoicing meters and the additional meters in a single interface. This means that they will have uniform, internally consistent data in a single format.

I.3. Tariffs

The costs of installing and managing the first connection bay are included in the periodic charges for providing and managing the bay.

The installation of the other meters is covered by an Elia price offer. Invoicing meters remain Elia property. In the case of an internal meter, the grid user will become the owner of the meter after it has been installed. Elia invoices the user periodically for managing these meters.



II. What are the benefits for the grid user?

Elia, as the Belgian high-voltage grid operator, works daily on thousands of meters. The teams responsible for meters have many years' experience of this kind of work. Grid users that put Elia in charge of installing and managing their additional meters are able to draw on this expertise and know-how in different ways:

- using reliable equipment that conforms to established standards and is installed in accordance with good practice. Elia only installs equipment that meets stringent quality standards. For instance, all the meters installed by Elia have a no-break system, alarm relays and a system for memorising and transmitting data. The peripheral equipment and the data transmission system meet the same quality requirements;
- using a single experienced and impartial operator to manage the internal meters. This means that the requirements of all the types of grid users are met:
 - in an effort to focus on their core businesses, some users want to offload certain tasks to someone they can trust. Such activities include monitoring calibration frequencies, checking the availability of spare parts and assessing the competence of maintenance subcontractors;
 - others want to enjoy the benefits of an efficient, standardised system for monitoring and consulting the very large volumes of metering data coming from all their facilities;
 - users can consult the data from the invoicing meters and additional meters in a single interface and format.

III. How to benefit from this service

III.1. Installing additional meters

Applications to install additional meters are addressed to the key account manager. An Elia technician will visit the grid user's site so that they can analyse the user's requirements and technical constraints in consultation with the user. This will serve as the basis for a price offer for installing the meters.

III.2. Managing additional meters

All applications for Elia to manage a meter are to be addressed to the key account manager.

IV. Legal and contractual basis

Invoicing meters are installed and managed in accordance with regulations of the various Grid Codes.

If Elia is put in charge of the installation and management of grid user's meters, a needs analysis is made to find out whether the standard operating methods can be applied or customised ones will be needed.

The invoicing meter that is part of the first connection bay will be installed when the first bay is installed and is governed by the same contract as the bay.

The other meters will be installed following an order from the grid user. These other meters are managed in accordance with the terms and conditions given in the metering services contract.

Installing and managing meters in 5 key points

- Elia installs and manages invoicing meters, which collect data essential for invoicing its services.
- Depending on the circumstances, the invoicing meters are installed in the connection bay or directly linked to the grid user's electrical facilities.
- On the user's demand, Elia can also install and manage additional meters on the grid user's site. The data collected by these meters are used to meet the users specific requirements: invoicing entities within the user's own company, controlling consumption, obtaining green certificates, etc.
- Choosing Elia to manage their internal meters means that grid users also have access to Elia's other metering services.
- Grid users will, for example, have quarter-hourly data curves available for their own meters, which they access using a single interface, i.e. the one used for providing the invoicing meter's curves.