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# UKRPA

- United Kingdom Revenue Protection Association
- Established in 1998 for companies involved in detecting and dealing with meter tampering and illegal abstraction of electricity/gas.
- Also supports providers of products/services that support revenue protection activities



# Philosophy

- Energy theft is a serious matter
  - Is a crime and can be an enabler of crime
  - Presents significant safety risk
  - Revenue losses and as a result higher energy costs
  - Energy Industry reputation
  - Between £100-400 million stolen per year (based on industry estimates 2011)



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# Purpose

- To promote the detection and prevention of meter tampering and other forms of illegal abstraction of electricity and gas (reducing costs to the industry)
- Provides a forum to identify matters of common interest and represent such interests to regulatory, consultative and other relevant bodies
- Provides a forum for the exchange of information and discussion of industry matter



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# Our Key Services

- The UKRPA provides a range of services to its Members, industry stakeholders and the public, key services include:
  - Website for knowledge sharing and ability for the public to report suspected cases of energy fraud  
<http://www.ukrpa.co.uk/>
  - Facilitate the investigation of reported energy fraud cases
  - Helpdesk - support the public with energy theft
  - Regular forums/meetings
  - Bi-annual National Revenue Protection Conference



# UKRPA Strategy

- The UKRPA has several strategic themes:
  - To provide expert analysis and input to industry
  - Influence energy theft policy and practices to reduce theft and maximise Member revenue
  - Promote the aims and objectives of the UKRPA
  - To develop where possible, industry best practice
  - Regular communications with stakeholders/media (raise awareness)



# Revenue Protection in the UK

- Theft Risk Assessment Scheme (TRAS)
  - UK Government scheme to change how Energy Suppliers tackle energy theft
  - Gas scheme first – less tampered meters than Electricity currently being found!
  - Larger Supplier = more money held by TRAS scheme, figures could be £1m GBP per annum
  - Targets set on a % of an Energy Suppliers portfolio
  - Incentive! More positive detection = draw money out of the pot



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# Value of Revenue Protection?

- Valid commercial argument based on the costs for the supplier doing nothing to investigate electricity/energy theft – but other implications exist...
  - Increased losses damage the whole industry
  - Company and energy industry reputation
  - Safety of the public



# Cannabis Cultivation



- Cannabis imported into the UK? No longer
- Organised Crime Gangs
- 1/3 of all energy theft is used in growing the plants
- 8000 Police raids in 2012
- 40 times more electricity used to cultivate cannabis than a normal house usage



# Smart World

- UK Government inform Energy Suppliers to fit SMART Meters by 2019
- 2013 – non of the 'big 6' Energy Suppliers fully engaged in swapping out the traditional meters
- Delays due to specification changes



# Impacts of Smart Metering

- Indications from worldwide roll-outs show that energy theft tends to increase with Automated Meter Reading (AMR), primarily due to:
  - Reduction in direct contact with customers
  - Reliability of systems/tamper alerts



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# Impacts of Smart Metering – Key Considerations

- Large volume of leads likely to be generated – need to manage data volumes to avoid swamping communication and investigation resource
- Inclusion of interference alarms (tamper flags) within the smart meter design
- Inability of interference alarms to identify meter by-pass
- High level risks of hacking, low level risks of deliberate triggering of alarms
- Need to carefully manage data driven leads







# Summary

- UKRPA to share knowledge within membership
- Engage with UK Government ,Police and Industry partners to detect energy theft, clampdown on cannabis cultivation
- TRAS scheme – find more energy theft
- Smart Meter roll-out



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**Thank You**

**Questions?**

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