TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A DIRECTED WRC PROJECT

THEME:	Water Use
TITLE	Impact of smart water metering and use and revenue collection
TOR NUMBER:	1010021

Rationale

The international trend of smart water metering in on the surge and water utilities are demonstrating that smart meters can be used in conjunction with other smart water technologies to significantly reduce NRW, billing administration and network management of demand. As a result, significant deployments are underway in some of the leading developed countries such as Australia, the United States of America, the United Kingdom and others across Europe. Advanced metering efforts in South Africa have previously been focused on water consumption control and payment, however, recent technological developments, combined with lessons learnt from the international community is showing the benefit of using smart metering as a solution for driving down systemic water loss, increase and manage revenues, and protect the security of this precious natural resource. In this regards the South African Government has made a strategic decision to achieve universal application of smart water and sanitation metering within the next five years for all municipal water and electricity billing in the country. In this endeavour Treasury has already issued transversal contracts for the manufacture, supply and support of smart water and electricity meters

Thus, a short term assessment of the efficacy of smart water metering is required to establish the strategic directions and improvements which may be required for sustainable roll-out of smart meters.

Objectives

- 1. Recognising that the water meter programme has just rolled out, the first objective is to establish and create a database on the number of municipalities which have piloted and adopted smart water meters (include all details of the meters installed)
- 2. Undertake a user survey on the acceptance of smart meters
- 3. Assess on a case study basis challenges and problems being encountered
- 4. On a cases study basis undertake a detail analysis on the administrative and operational benefits on revenue management
- 5. Undertake a cost benefit analysis on the long term impact the value of smart metering will offer.

Expected Deliverables:

1. A high level evidence based position paper on efficacy of smart water meters.

- 2. Study report and assessment of impact of smart meters on user acceptance and revenue collection
- 3. Any specific guidelines and recommendation
- 4. Two webinars
- 5. Policy formulation where needed.

Total Budget: R 1 500 000.00 (Including VAT) Year 1: R 300 000.00 (Including VAT) Duration: 24 months