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More smart meters nationwide

FIVE-YEAR TARGET: TNB to install 8 million units at no additional cost to consumers

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TENAGA Nasional Bhd (TNB) will roll out eight million smart meters nationwide over the next five years through its Advanced Metering Infrastructure.

With targeted completion in 2021, the national utility company said the proposed implementation would be carried out in phases after completing its pilot projects, here, and in Putrajaya.

TNB Smart Billing project senior manager Datin Siti Laila Sri Asih S. Garieb said the government has approved the smart meters to be installed in consumers' homes at no additional cost.

"This year, we will conduct the evaluation phase on technologies, customers, partners, processes and risk mitigation before embarking on a nationwide rollout.

"For now, the costs will be borne by TNB.

"We do not see this as an investment that should be borne by the customers as we are looking at a win-win outcome for the customers, regulators and the Energy Commission.

"In transforming the service delivery, this is what we have to do to go forward as a national utility company.

"However, we are also looking into manufacturing the smart meters ourselves in order to reduce costs," Siti Laila said at a media briefing, here, last Thursday.

She said it is hoped that the full implementation for the smart meters would be concluded by 2021, taking into account the customers buy-in, collaboration from all parties and the smart meter technology to be selected by TNB.

To achieve the anticipated target by 2021, the company will have to install about 1,500 to 2,000 smart meters per day.

From the pilot project, here, and Putrajaya, 1,000 homes were installed with smart meters for a more cost-efficient energy usage, prompt and accurate billing, outage management, smart data management as well as smart payment systems.

"We are target to install in Malacca as early as January next year.

"From what we have seen so far, the acceptance for the smart meters is good.

"One major improvement from the pilot project will have to be a collaborative effort be-

tween customers, TNB and the government in making this effort a reality," said Siti Laila.

It is expected that about 780 million smart meters will be installed by 2020, with a projected growth of about 10 million smart meters every year.

A report by TechSci Research revealed that with a market base of about 8.5 million, the market for smart meters in Malaysia is projected to grow at a compound annual growth rate of around 12 per cent from until 2020.

With an electricity access rate of 96.83 per cent as of 2013, installation of smart meters in Malaysia is expected to increase the capabilities of power transmission and distribution utilities.

Major factors projected to drive adoption of smart meters in the country include higher operational efficiencies, the need to reduce aggregate technical and commercial losses, improvements in outage management and reduction in consumption on inactive meters.



Smart Billing project senior manager Datin Siti Laila Sri Asih S. Garieb says TNB is looking into manufacturing the smart meters