

**EVENT DAY 3: 14 MARCH 2024 (THURSDAY)**

**SESSION - 3**

**GLOBAL LESSONS ON SMART METERING - SESSION WITH AMISPs AND DISCOMS  
(SESSION PARTNERS - REC, PFC, IntelliSmart and USAID/SAREP)**



**Venue & Time**

Venue **Crystal- 1**

**Session Background**

Smart Metering or Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) is a technology that allows for the remote measurement and recording of electricity usage of the consumers, providing real-time data to both utilities and consumers. This technology enhances efficiency, enables dynamic pricing, and supports the integration of renewable energy. Most utilities in Europe and the Americas have implemented smart metering and have valuable lessons to share. Presently, India is deploying 250 million smart meters as part of the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) which is a revolutionary initiative towards modernization of the electricity distribution networks in the country. Although the smart meter deployment program in India is progressing fast, there are important lessons to learn from utilities in North America and Europe who were front-runners in this domain. This session is planned in partnership with REC and PFC, the nodal agencies managing the RDSS program; as well as IntelliSmart Infrastructure and USAID's SAREP program. Experts from select utilities in USA and Europe who have successfully implemented AMI projects involving multi-million meters and maintaining the system for several years will share their experiences and lessons learned with the Indian Discoms, Advanced Metering Infrastructure Service Providers (AMISPs) and other stakeholders involved in the smart metering ecosystem. The session will explore the potential new services that can be offered to customers with the integration of smart meters as well as innovative financing options for smart metering projects.

**14:00 ~ 15:30** **Session 3: Financing Smart Meters – Constraints and Possible Solutions**

**Special Remarks** **Welcome remarks & Context setting for the panel discussion by Ms. Apurva Chaturvedi, Senior clean energy specialist, USAID India**

**Discussion Points**

- Role of Finance in Scaling up the Smart Meter Deployment in India
- What is the Current Financing Model being followed for Smart Metering Projects?
- What are the major Challenges in the Financing of Smart Metering Projects - both Debt and Equity Routes?
- Innovative Mechanisms/Structures/Instruments that can Mitigate the Challenges
- Instruments/Structures that may be Deployed for addressing the Challenges
- Enablers required for Accelerating the Smart Meter Deployment

**Chair** **Rakesh Goyal, Chief of Party, SAREP**

**Moderator** **Mayank Bhardwaj, Lead (E-mobility and Procurement & Private sector), SAREP**

**Theme Presentation** **Financing of Smart Meters in India: Current Trends of Financing and Major Challenges by USAID/SAREP**

- Discussants**
1. **Parag Baduni, Partner – NIF**
  2. **Charu Kaisth, CGM, Power Finance Corporation**
  3. **Sumit Grover, CFO, IntelliSmart Infrastructure**

**Key Takeaways by Moderator**