

Media Release

Monday, 18 December 2023

Wanted: 150,000 home energy devices for Australia's largest behind the meter platform

Household hot water units, rooftop solar and battery energy storage systems, EV chargers and pool pumps will be enlisted to create Australia's largest platform of VPP ready home energy devices, under the Intellihub Flex program.

About 150,000 of these home energy devices are being targeted to join the platform, helping to create more than 500 megawatts of flexible consumer energy storage.

The platform is being supported by the Australian Renewable Energy Agency with a \$9.75 million grant under the Advancing Renewables Program.

Electricity retailers will be able to sign up households to the Flex Platform and use it to manage their home energy devices as part of a Virtual Power Plant (VPP).

The devices can be turned on to soak up excess daytime solar energy and help stabilise the electricity grid or programmed to reduce demand during peak periods to better manage supply and demand across electricity networks and wholesale markets.

Intellihub CEO Wes Ballantine said better managing home energy devices was essential in helping the country to transition to a Net Zero energy system.

"There will be more than 10 million of these devices sitting behind the meter in Australian homes by 2030," Mr Ballantine said.

"This means more solar and battery energy systems, more electric hot water units, and more EV chargers and pool pumps.

"We now have the smarts to manage the energy these devices consume, so they become a flexible energy resource.

"They will work like a large battery energy system, soaking up excess daytime solar energy and avoiding consumption during peak demand periods to reduce stress on the system.

"There is enormous benefit from being smarter about how we manage these resources, not just for the energy system but for consumers and local communities."

Analysis from Intellihub shows that better managing controllable home energy devices as part of a VPP could help to reduce wholesale energy costs by over a hundred dollars per year for every enrolled device.

“Taking pressure off wholesale energy costs is good for household energy prices,” Mr Ballantine said.

“We’re already in close discussions with several large and small electricity retailers to partner with us on the Flex platform.

“It will enable them to build innovative new energy products to offer to customers. We are targeting 150,000 home energy devices under management through the Flex program over two years, helping to create 500 megawatts of flexible energy demand.

“Ultimately, it’s just a small fraction of what is possible by better managing our behind the meter resources.”

****See the Intellihub Flex Fact Sheet for more information and details on home energy resources and how the program works.***

Media contact: Anthony O’Brien +61 407 264 727

About Intellihub

The Intellihub Group is a large Australian and New Zealand based utility services company that delivers innovative metering, data and behind the meter solutions that maximise digital and new energy services.

It is an experienced and leading provider of multi-utility services across electricity and water networks for residential, commercial & industrial, embedded network and solar metering customers.

It specialises in asset management, installation, financing, and the day-to-day operations of smart meters, managing more than 2.3 million advanced smart meters, with a significant committed deployment pipeline.

It recently acquired leading energy technology company GreenSync, the world's first digital pool monitoring business Pooled and New Zealand based metering and data solutions provider Influx.

It also deploying electric vehicle chargers in NSW and Victoria.

It is the only independent smart metering provider across ANZ, supplying smart meters to more than 30 energy retailers such as Mercury, Contact, Nova, Meridian, Origin Energy, Aurora Energy, AGL, EnergyAustralia, Simply Energy, Red Energy and ActewAGL.

It is a 50/50 joint venture between Pacific Equity Partners (PEP) and global asset manager Brookfield.