



ITTIA Meter Smart Automation™

Key Features

- Pallet tracking
- Meter location tracking
- Reading capture
- AMI data capture
- Sorting meters for retirement, retrofit, etc.
- Validate calibration before releasing meters to service
- Automatic and manual data export
- Reports and monitoring
- Statistical analysis compliant with the ANSI/ASQ Z1.9-2008 standard
- Bar code scanner input
- Bar code label printing

ITTIA Meter Smart Automation (MSA) is a software solution for management, tracking, and maintenance of metering device assets. Natural gas and electrical utilities depend on ITTIA MSA to collect meter information, enforce business rules, and act on exceptional cases using each meter's complete history.

Product Overview

Meter maintenance and testing is a critical task to ensure accuracy in billing and, for electric utilities, efficient distribution of power. MSA centralizes the collection of meter maintenance and testing history, so that faulty meters and misconfigured AMI modules can be identified before they are released into service.

Each utility company defines a custom maintenance workflow in MSA using a collection of predefined tasks that can capture information, such as the current meter reading, or enforce business rules, such as retirement of specific meter models. Similar meters are automatically grouped together on pallets when moved from one maintenance process to the next.

Data collection is unobtrusive, replacing cumbersome manual processes. Sophisticated reporting built into MSA makes it easy to both identify high-level trends and scrutinize individual meters.

Benefits

ITTIA DB has been used to:

- Facilitate capture of key meter attributes by equipment operators without negatively impacting efficiency.
- Identify problems early so that appropriate corrective actions can take place in a timely manner.
- Guide each meter through the maintenance facility, following predefined business rules.
- Provide overrides to handle exceptional cases.
- Generate reports so that engineering and billing specialists can correct problems quickly.
- Automate the transfer of data to other applications and interested parties.

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Specifications

Components

MSA Desktop Application

The MSA Desktop Application runs on each workstation that is used to process gas or electric meters. The application is also used to access reports, perform statistical analysis, and browse the meter inventory by physical location.

MSA Central Database

A central database manages data storage, consistent enforcement of business rules, and security policy. You assign built-in meter processing tasks to global processes that can be used at any workstation. Operators can only access processes that they are authorized to use.

MSA Mobile Appliance Tracking Tool

Most tasks relating to gas and electric meters can be performed at a workstation, but some assets managed by the meter shop, such as electrical transformers, are too large to move frequently. A separate utility is used to collect information about these assets with a rugged hand-held computer. Captured data is temporarily stored in an embedded database on the hand-held device until it can be loaded into the main application.

Initially developed for transformers and similar equipment, this utility uses customizable fields that can be modified on-the-fly to accommodate a broad range of assets.

Technologies

Oracle Database®

MSA uses Oracle Database to store data and encode robust business rules. The MSA Central Database can also interact directly with other Oracle databases to exchange meter data.

Windows Forms

Meter processing is handled through an easy-to-use wizard-style interface, based on Windows Forms, that helps to minimize operator error by focusing on one task at a time.

ITTIA DB

MSA devices use the ITTIA DB embedded database to store and retrieve data reliably while disconnected from the back-end systems. This ensures that important meter and productivity data is not lost even if the device loses power suddenly.

Bar Code Scanner

MSA is designed to work with or without a bar code scanner. In addition to identifying metering devices and AMI modules, special bar code labels can be used to control most common tasks.

With a wireless bar code scanner, an operator can work at a distance from their workstation and listen for audio cues. Bar code scanners that feature a numeric keypad can also be used to enter meter readings.

Supported Meter Test Equipment

- SNAP (Sonic Nozzle Auto Prover)
- Dresser brand gas meter Provers
- RFL Meter Calibration Test Boards
- Grabber AMI monitoring software

Services Available

- **Installation:** Installation support services ensure that ITTIA DB is fully integrated into your software infrastructure.
- **Business Logic Configuration:** Every utility has its own way of processing meters. Experts at ITTIA will review your company's unique meter processing workflow and configure MSA to follow it.
- **Feature Development:** Need to support a new type of AMI module? Do you have unique meter test equipment that should be integrated with MSA? Feature development services will add new capabilities to MSA to meet your custom needs.
- **Technical Support:** Have questions about the easiest or most accurate way to do something with MSA? Our technical support staff is ready to make your experience with MSA the best that it can be.