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Consultation feedback on the rule change to accelerate smart meter deployment

As a leading global specialist in photovoltaic (PV) system technology, SMA is setting the standards today for the decentralized, digital and renewable energy supply of tomorrow. Our product range spans the home rooftop sector, commercial and industrial applications, and large grid-scale applications. Our product range includes grid-connected inverters, inverters for independent, stand-alone systems and storage solutions for battery systems of all sizes. Our PV solar inverter and battery storage products are complemented by components for energy management, system monitoring, and data analysis. SMA has a global inverter capacity of 140 GW in more than 190 countries and more than 9GW inverter capacity in the Australian market. We are headquartered in Germany, with more than 4,300 SMA employees in 20 countries and over 110 employees across Australia.

SMA supports the draft rule determination to accelerate deployment of smart meters and to provide distribution network service providers (DNSPs) with access to basic power quality data (PQD) from small customer meters on an ongoing basis, without undue delay or direct charge. Access to PQD is expected to enable DNSPs to better manage their networks and increase solar PV hosting capacity on distribution networks. Better network management will lead to lower network costs for customers and higher solar PV hosting capacity will reduce energy costs for all customers, not just those with solar PV systems.

We welcome the customer safeguards that would prevent retailers from charging any upfront costs or exit fees for meter replacements that are part of a Legacy Meter Replacement Plan.

The most significant benefits of smart meters for customers will be enabled when customers (and their authorized agents) have access to real-time data from their meter. We welcome the support of the Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) for the proposal to enable real-time data access and we look forward to participating in the consultation process for the rule change request anticipated in the Draft Rule Determination.