



## **European Utilities Telecom Council**

The European Utilities Telecom Council (EUTC) is a trade association representing electric, gas and water utilities and other critical infrastructure providers on their information and technology (ICT) needs. EUTC advocates on major issues related to utility ICT needs such as cybersecurity, radio-spectrum access to enable wireless networks, and issues related to fiber optic cable siting and leasing. The group brings industry experts together from across Europe, enabling them to share knowledge and stay up to date in this rapidly changing field. The EUTC also works in partnership with EU institutions that actively seek its opinions on important issues such as spectrum allocation and development of the future energy grid. By joining the EUTC, members gain access to the latest information on key telecoms and technology issues affecting the utilities, energy and critical infrastructure sectors. Crucially, EUTC members benefit from the ability to collectively have input to, and influence, key policy decisions through a number of high level European forums.

### **Mission statement:**

“The European Utilities Telecom Council (EUTC) is a non-profit organization delivering education, collaboration, best practices and thought leadership in telecommunication technology to utilities, other critical infrastructure providers and regulators, ensuring efficient, secure, sustainable and affordable smart infrastructure solutions.”

### **Vision statement:**

“The European Utilities Telecom Council (EUTC) is the trusted advisor, source and resource of information and knowledge for its members and relevant policy makers regarding telecommunication technologies required by utilities and other critical infrastructure providers.”

### **Connected Globally**

The EUTC is the European arm of a global organisation, the Utilities Technology Council (UTC), which was established in the USA in 1948, and also includes Canadian utilities. EUTC acts with a uniquely European focus, while benefiting from administrative and practical support from the UTC, and collaboration from utilities facing similar challenges across the globe. EUTC is an independent international unit of UTC, which also includes Africa UTC (AUTC) and UTC América Latina (UTCAL). This affiliation provides EUTC and its members with the global reach of UTC.

### **Radio Spectrum Allocation**

The EUTC plays a key role in the debate on radio spectrum allocation for utility and critical infrastructure companies operating across Europe.

Harmonised spectrum allocation has many potential benefits for the successful roll-out of the future energy grid, as well as the continued reliable operation of the grid as this transition takes place. In the future, many more elements of the grid will be underpinned by wireless communication services - in addition to many which already have significant dependence on such systems. Terrestrial wireless, wide area networks will form a key element of the critical communications fabric which is essential to support the transition to a dynamic smart grid paradigm. Allocating spectrum across Europe would enable networks to be built using standardised communication protocols, and would provide significant benefits in terms of interoperability, scalability, vendor support, economy of scale and ensuring interoperability.



The EUTC's spectrum group meets regularly, enabling council members to connect with other utility companies and discuss wireless solutions in a broad, pan-European context. EUTC members also engage directly with DG CONNECT (the European Commission Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology) on future trends and requirements for radio spectrum and other relevant applications such as cybersecurity, commercial telecommunications cooperation, infrastructure sharing, etc.

EUTC also supports global UTC on its ongoing engagement with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Study Group 5 (SG5) on Terrestrial Services. In addition, EUTC is helping to prepare for the next ITU World Radio Conference in 2019 (WRC19) (see picture opposite from WRC15). Within Europe, EUTC are members of ETSI and as such are able to represent members interests within forums operated by ECC, CEPT and ECO. Involvement with these organisations also gives the opportunity for two-way interaction with national regulators and 3GPP (responsible for the development of 4G & 5G standards)

### **Collaboration between Telecoms and Utilities**

It is important for EUTC to enhance and facilitate the collaboration between telecommunications operators and utilities and thus explain the mutual benefit of collaboration.

Collaboration in services: It is important for utilities and telecom providers to understand what the limitations and possibilities are of their sometimes overlapping networks. It is crucial to for each part to understand that the aim is to seek the most efficient solutions. Requirements specific to the implementation of 5G, supporting communication solutions going beyond what can be provided by current generic telecoms' solutions, for example, will be important issues to address. EUTC collaborate with a number of research facilities around the globe (often affiliated with academia) which provides the opportunity to experiment with equipment vendors & telecommunications operators in a physically and commercially 'safe' environment. Work in this manner often attracts innovation funds – reducing financial barriers to trialing new solutions.

Collaboration in infrastructure: Collaboration in the area of infrastructure is a key ambition. There will arise opportunities for collaboration - especially with the deployment of new networks like 5G and Smart Grids – both of which require significant network densification and new business models. In order to exploit possible synergies and undertake deployments in the most efficient way, cooperation between the energy and telecommunications sector is necessary.

### **Cybersecurity**

Cybersecurity is a growing area of concern for utilities, but there is an uneven degree of awareness and maturity of cybersecurity programs among European utility companies. The ever increasing "digitisation" of the grid has significantly increased the attack 'surface.' The attendant sophistication and complexity of systems throughout Europe underscores the importance of addressing the risk of cybersecurity breaches and any associated blackouts. There are also risks associated with the increased adoption of digital technology by utility customers and regulators – and these risks must be managed into the future. EUTC works closely with European experts in this area – including those from national governments, industry and academia.

EUTC has played a crucial role in developing the systems and standards which have enabled the reliable monitoring and control of existing utility networks throughout Europe and globally via the wider UTC community. EUTC will continue to play a pivotal role in the evolution of "fit for purpose" telecommunications solutions suitable for smart grids of the future which are essential to facilitate



the transition a low carbon energy production whilst maintaining security of supply and low prices for consumers.

**Contact**

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