

Navigating the AMI 2.0 Journey with JD Energy

A Strategic Approach to Utility Transformation

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As utility companies transition into a new landscape of increasing load growth, distributed energy resources, and edge computing capabilities, they

face the challenge of fundamentally adjusting how they operate and better serve their customers. The start for many utilities was nearly two decades ago, deploying the first "smart meters" across the network as part of a new Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) initiative. With these meters now nearing their end-of-life cycle, navigating this new utility landscape with a refreshed, "AMI 2.0", approach provides a well aligned opportunity to both enhance grid reliability and the customer experience.



At JD Energy, we partner with major utilities to navigate their AMI 2.0 transformation journey, tailoring strategies that balance innovation with cost-effectiveness to deliver sustainable, long-term value. Drawing from this experience, we have identified 4 strategic elements that drive an AMI 2.0 vision:

1. Meter Landscape

At the core of realizing this vision is a cost-optimized approach that moves beyond the traditional one-size-fits-all mindset. Leading utilities will be adopting strategic meter deployment approaches that carefully balance functionality with cost-effectiveness. This includes thoughtful deployment of fit-for-purpose meters based on specific use case objectives, combined with strategic placement of enhanced meters with advanced capabilities where they deliver the most value.

2. Balanced Analytics

Addressing analytics as a key element of AMI 2.0 requires careful consideration of where and how to deploy intelligence across the network. The most successful approaches balance distributed intelligence at the grid edge with centralized analytics capabilities. This hybrid model enables utilities to implement customer-focused applications that enhance engagement while

simultaneously deploying grid-focused applications that improve operational efficiency. Advanced applications supporting autonomous grid management and optimization can be strategically deployed where they deliver the most value.

3. Interoperability Ecosystem

The foundation of any successful AMI 2.0 deployment must be built with the future in mind. This means creating interoperable solutions that enable “best of breed” approaches while ensuring scalable architectures that can support emerging use cases. Therefore, AMI 2.0 success relies heavily on building strong partnerships across the vendor ecosystem. This means bringing together full-solution providers and specialized vendors in a way that emphasizes standardization and interoperability. Through collaborative innovation and a focus on end-to-end solution delivery, utilities can create robust systems that deliver lasting value.

4. Robust (Behind and Front of Meter) Communications

The network architecture supporting AMI 2.0 requires careful attention to detail. Successful implementations incorporate efficient data collection and compression strategies, leveraging edge computing capabilities to minimize bandwidth requirements. All data transmission must be secure and encrypted, with the network capable of supporting both time-sensitive and non-critical communications effectively.

Behind-the-meter (BTM) communications represent a new, critical component of AMI 2.0 systems - supporting BTM asset adoption while maintaining high reliability for critical use cases. These systems must seamlessly integrate with diverse device ecosystems while remaining cost-effective to deploy and maintain.

The Road Ahead

As we look to the future, several exciting possibilities are emerging for utilities willing to embrace transformation. Advanced edge computing capabilities continue to evolve, enabling new applications and use cases. The integration of distributed energy resources becomes increasingly sophisticated, while customer engagement platforms offer new ways to deliver value. Innovation in grid management and optimization continues to advance, opening new opportunities for operational efficiency and reliability.

The journey to AMI 2.0 represents a critical step in utility modernization, but success requires more than just technology deployment. By taking a strategic, balanced approach that considers both current needs and future possibilities, utilities can build systems that deliver value today while preparing for tomorrow's challenges. At JD Energy, we're committed to supporting utilities to determine the right balance between innovation and practicality, between current needs and future possibilities, and between cost and capability – creating the foundation for a sustainable energy future.

For more information about JD Energy or to schedule an exploratory session, please visit www.jdenergysales.com.

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JD Energy, a division of JD Technologies Global, LLC provides premium sales, marketing, and consulting services to high quality, complementary power industry solution and service providers. From generation equipment to distribution grid optimization, we drive greater efficiency, reliability, and sustainability across the energy market value chain. Our consultative approach and wide-ranging experience help us build lasting partnerships with utilities, OEMs, EPCs, and industrial customers who value expertise and integrity.

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