



Smart metering at Alexa improves water consumption

Challenge

We have been measuring, monitoring and targeting reductions in water use at our shopping centres since 2003. Data is collected and monitored through a centralised online database which allows each shopping centre management team to input environmental performance data and to generate performance reports that can be compared across Sonae Sierra's portfolio. Yet the strength of any such system relies on having the most accurate and up to date information available.

Solution

At Alexa, the centre's management team decided to replace all water meters in common and tenant areas with 'smart meters' that allow two-way wireless communications between the meter and central system to ensure real-time control and monitoring. The meters record water consumption at established intervals and communicate that information back for monitoring and billing purposes in real time.

Results

The feasibility study found that a network of smart meters could achieve costs savings by removing the need to install extensive cabling that would have been required to install a conventional metering system. Being able to collect data in real time means the management team at Alexa can more accurately monitor water consumption, detect immediately any water leakages, and target staff and tenant training based on individual water meter usage. We estimate that the system will help contribute to the centre's reduction targets.