

ROUTE to smart infrastructure

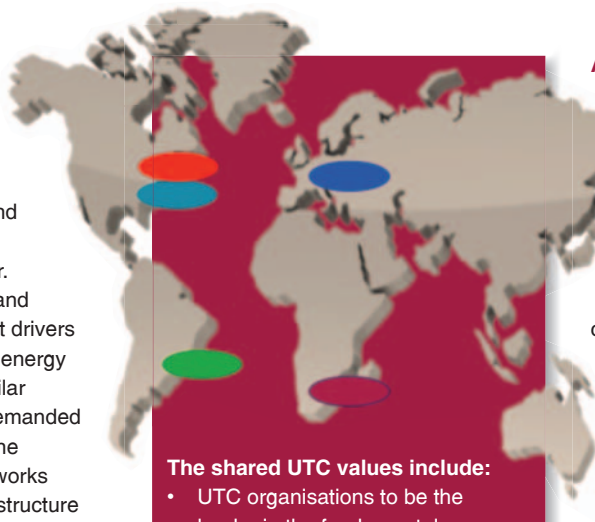
is through telecoms and ICT enablers

The Africa Utilities Telecom Council (AUTC) is a platform to create a focus on telecoms and ICT as the key enabler for smart utility networks, writes Peter Moray, director global development at the Utilities Telecom Council based in the USA.

At the Utilities Telecom Council (UTC) we believe utility infrastructure networks around the world will be challenged by regulators and governments to operate more efficiently and become smarter. In the electricity transmission and distribution sectors, the current drivers are renewable and distributed energy sources but in due course similar business efficiencies will be demanded of the water, gas and oil pipeline industries. Creating smart networks particularly in distribution infrastructure can only be successful if you can gather and act upon intelligence from distributed network assets in urban and remote locations; and new telecoms and ICT networks, technologies and services become the key enabler to this complex process.

UTC is a global trade association dedicated to creating a favourable business, regulatory, and technological environment for companies that own, manage, or provide critical telecommunications systems in support of their core business. UTC has evolved into a dynamic organisation that represents electric, gas, and water utilities; natural gas pipelines; critical infrastructure companies; and other industry stakeholders. Serving the industry for over 60 years has given UTC a unique position as a market leader for utility telecommunication advocacy and education.

UTC has confirmed a set of common values applicable to utilities around the world through establishing UTC international regions in America Latina, Canada, and Europe.



The shared UTC values include:

- UTC organisations to be the leader in the fundamental transition in the utility world from Telecoms to IT/Telecoms convergence which will support the transformation of our industry
- Technical Expertise on core business challenges
- Policy, Regulatory and Strategic Models and Approaches
- Raising profile of utilities telecom to corporate, industry, government leaders
- Market and Business development opportunities for member companies
- UTC organisations being recognised as a trusted resource and therefore being able to influence policy and regulation

In November 2014 UTC hosted the Africa Utility Telecoms Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa. This was the third such event held in southern Africa. Conferences in 2012 and 2013 were organised jointly with Eskom Research & Innovation and focused on an educational programme.

AUTC SUMMIT HAD TWO PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

The first primary objective was to identify and promote debate on some of the key telecom issues facing utility companies across the Africa region; secondly our objective was to invite utility companies to participate in the creation of Africa UTC, a new non-profit trade association under the control of a board of directors from African utilities. AUTC will address the needs of these mission critical industries as they develop telecoms and ICT to support the creation of reliable, economic infrastructure networks across the region. The success of these three events has convinced UTC that there is a case for creating Africa UTC addressing the needs of utility companies in sub-Saharan Africa.

Africa UTC will be an operating division of UTC with the business model for the organisation being similar to that used for European UTC comprising:

- A Board of Africa Utility Advisors setting the direction, strategy and activities of the association. Members of the advisory board will be representatives of Charter Utility Members of Africa UTC together with representation from UTC. The board of advisors will elect a chairman and vice chairman who will sit on the UTC Global Advisory Council.
- A formal constitution for a non-profit international trade association within South Africa using a set of operating principles which meet the requirements of UTC and are appropriate for South Africa.



KEV ACCURATE MEASURING

MISSION STATEMENT

To be an **excellent** partner to municipalities and utilities to **accurately** supply products, installation and information services required for the delivery and management of electricity and water services.

VISION STATEMENT

We will define the standards of **excellent quality**, as a service provider to municipalities and utilities in the field of water, electricity and construction services.

WHAT DO WE DO

Our target markets primarily comprise of local government as well as Eskom. We have expanded our market activity to the private utility sector, offering services in both water and electricity commodities

We offer a scope of professional services such as:

- revenue protection,
- revenue recovery and
- revenue enhancement services.

Our meter management scope of services comprise:

- enhancing the aspect of data accuracy, efficiency and reliability,
- the use of customized field applications for installation, reading, inspection and auditing services.
- domestic and commercial installation services

We believe data integrity is the key to on-going effective revenue management and revenue enhancement. We welcome opportunities within our target markets, to present our scope of professional meter management services and adding value to your end consumer.

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Email: info@kevaccurate.co.za or marketing@kevaccurate.co.za

DELIVERING METER MANAGEMENT SERVICES SINCE 2002

HEAD OFFICE

PO BOX 1735
Pine Town
3600
Tel: (031) 705 8013
Fax: (031) 705 6693

www.kevaccurate.co.za

Reg No (2014/098303/07)

REGIONAL OFFICE

PO BOX 11165
Bloubergrandt
7441
Tel: (021) 556 3658
Fax: (021) 556 4524



- A Director of Operations reporting to the chair and vice chair of the board of advisors.
- All back office functions including membership, finance and other association management activities will be outsourced to a professional association management company based in South Africa.

The relationship of Africa UTC to other UTC operations is shown below.

In addition, the Africa UTC Board of Advisors will participate through the chair and vice chair in the UTC Global Advisory Council (GAC) set up early in 2014 to ensure maximum value is brought to all members of UTC through a coordinated programme of work which involves all the international regions.

The GAC has identified four areas of activity that are common across the international regions and which are seen as key challenges for utility companies in the next five years:

1. Transition to IP & Packet Networks
2. Key Performance Indicators for Utility Telecom Networks – initiated by Eskom Research & Innovation through membership of European UTC
3. Cyber Security Sharing Forum
4. New Wireless Spectrum for Smart

ENERGY NETWORKS

Participation in the activities of these Working Groups is conditional on membership of UTC. For this purpose, UTC provides a common set of utility member benefits in each international region.

AUTC Charter members' benefits:

- A seat on the AUTC Board of Directors reserved for an executive

representative from the AUTC Charter Member company

- An active leadership role in shaping of AUTC's positions in pan-African expert groups
- Possibility to participate in AUTC and UTC working groups and projects
- Unlimited subscriptions to the new AUTC Newsletter and all other UTC periodicals, including the UTC Journal, for as many company employees as desired
- Access to the AUTC LinkedIn group
- AUTC monthly newsletter
- One complimentary registration to the annual Africa Utility Telecom Conference, and any additional events
- Discounts on additional AUTC Africa event registrations
- Africa Utilities Telecom Council information reports
- Access to Members-Only information on Africa Utilities Telecom Council web site
- Free copies of selected UTC Research Reports on critical infrastructure communications issues
- Access to all other UTC membership benefits, discounts and services

DEVELOPMENT ALREADY AFOOT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

As an example of the potential to develop local benefits to members, in the recent Africa Summit, UTC was able to develop an argument for a new wireless spectrum for utilities with representatives of the South Africa Telecoms Regulator, ICASA. There is now an opportunity for the utility and mission critical companies across South Africa to provide a common argument for the wireless spectrum and to influence the bandwidth and spectrum allocations to the benefit of the industries

concerned. ICASA has also indicated the opportunity for AUTC to engage with the Communications Regulators Association of Southern Africa (CRASA) to provide a utility view of telecoms regulation, wireless spectrum and other related business issues across the southern part of the continent.

AUTC has developed relationships with professional institutions and other utility associated trade bodies including:

- South African Institute of Electrical Engineers
- Southern Africa Power Pool and West Africa Power Pool
- Association of Municipal Electricity Utilities
- African Electrotechnical Standardisation Commission
- South Africa Electrotechnical Export Council
- Association of Power Utilities of Africa, and
- South African Energy Development Institute

All of the listed organisations recognise the critical role telecommunications will play in developing smart infrastructure networks and it is crucial that utility organisations across the African region share their knowledge and experiences, promote collaboration of the provision of telecoms networks and services and present a common position on the issues facing their sectors.

Membership of Africa Utilities Telecom Council presents an opportunity for the utility and mission critical sectors to come together and present a unified voice on the challenges of providing telecoms and ICT to support the growth of smart networks across the Africa region. [ESI](#)



STEG international services « STEG-IS », is a subsidiary of the Tunisian Company of Electricity & Gas «STEG». It was established to promote and share, with African sisters companies, its experience and know-how acquired over more than half a century in the areas of Production, Transmission and Distribution of Electricity and Gas.

STEG-IS OFFERS A VARIETY OF SERVICES AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY EXPERTISE DURING ALL PROJECT PHASES NAMELY :


- EPC projects implementation
- Feasibility studies
- Control and supervision of construction works
- Technical Audit & Energy efficiency
- Tariff Studies and Reducing losses
- Operating & Maintenance (O & M)
- Training & Capacity Building

Through several successful projects in various countries of Africa and the Middle East, STEG-IS has built a network of trust and a lasting partnership based on win-win approach and know-how sharing


 **RWANDA** - 55 000 connections; 1 320 km of MV/LV lines; 520 MV/LV substations

 **TANZANIA** - 10 000 connections; 720 km of MV/LV lines; 126 MV/LV substations

 **CAMEROON** - 160 km of MV/LV lines; 27 MV/LV substations

 **SENEGAL** - Construction of a MV/LV network to electrify 9700 households & Management of MBOUR concession for 25 years

 **SIERRA LEONE** - Rehabilitation of MV/LV networks & Supply and installation of 10000 prepaid meters

 **CHAD** - Supervision of construction of a 60 MW Power Plant & a Transmission network in N'Djamena

 **LEBANON** - Technical assistance for the construction of distribution network for 500 000 customers

 **DJIBOUTI** - Design and installation of 44000 smart meters

