



**FlexNet**

## **Network Communications System**

Redefining Intelligent Utility Communications

Technology that takes you  
from today to tomorrow.



# FlexNet™ – Technology you can trust

FlexNet is a robust, high-powered solution based on open standards. It gives electric, gas and water utilities a communications network that is designed and built specifically for smart grid applications. Working with smart meters, FlexNet provides utilities a dedicated and secure two-way communications highway over which to transmit and receive customer usage data – the hallmark of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) solutions. Utilities can more effectively monitor and manage the distribution and use of electricity, water or gas.

With automatic delivery and analysis of consumption data, utilities are able to match supply with consumer demand, resulting in much better utilization of resources with the least amount of waste. Customers can be billed based on actual usage patterns and be encouraged to use resources more wisely. They can receive early notification of water or gas leaks, tampering, equipment problems or outages.

With these advantages and more, Sensus is redefining the standard for utility AMI.

In the FlexNet environment, smart meters communicate data throughout the day – such as electric power consumed from the grid and returned to the grid by customers who generate alternative energy – or water leaks in a home or business. In-home devices inform customers of their energy or water usage patterns. Utilities gain new visibility through infrastructure monitors that can sense trouble conditions and trigger an alert to the need for corrective action.

Customers are empowered to participate in demand response programs that save them money while conserving resources.

## A Dedicated and Protected Communications Highway

### Reliable, secure and cost-effective.

Unlike other utility networks that operate on costly power line infrastructures or low-powered, shared radio frequencies, FlexNet uses primary use radio spectrum, protected by law from interference and bundled into the network solution. This strategy presents essential advantages that other systems cannot offer.

**No frequency sharing, no interference, no problems – period.** While other systems fight interference and signal noise in shared bands, FlexNet transmits with a clarity and security that is protected by federal law.

**The highest signal power and range in the industry.** FlexNet wireless devices can transmit at up to two watts, potentially 10 to 100 times more power than devices on unlicensed spectrum. High signal power and low noise combine to significantly extend network reach. Instead of a fraction of a mile between endpoints, a FlexNet network can transmit up to 40 miles from point to point.

**A simpler, more manageable infrastructure.** One tower gateway can cover 30 to 300 square miles, depending on population density and terrain. In hard-to-reach areas, smart meters can pass

along data for each other. That means less equipment to buy, deploy and operate.

### More reliable communications.

FlexNet's dedicated highway for data transmission makes communication more reliable than other systems that require channel hopping over radio frequencies.

### Cost-effective, rapid build-out.

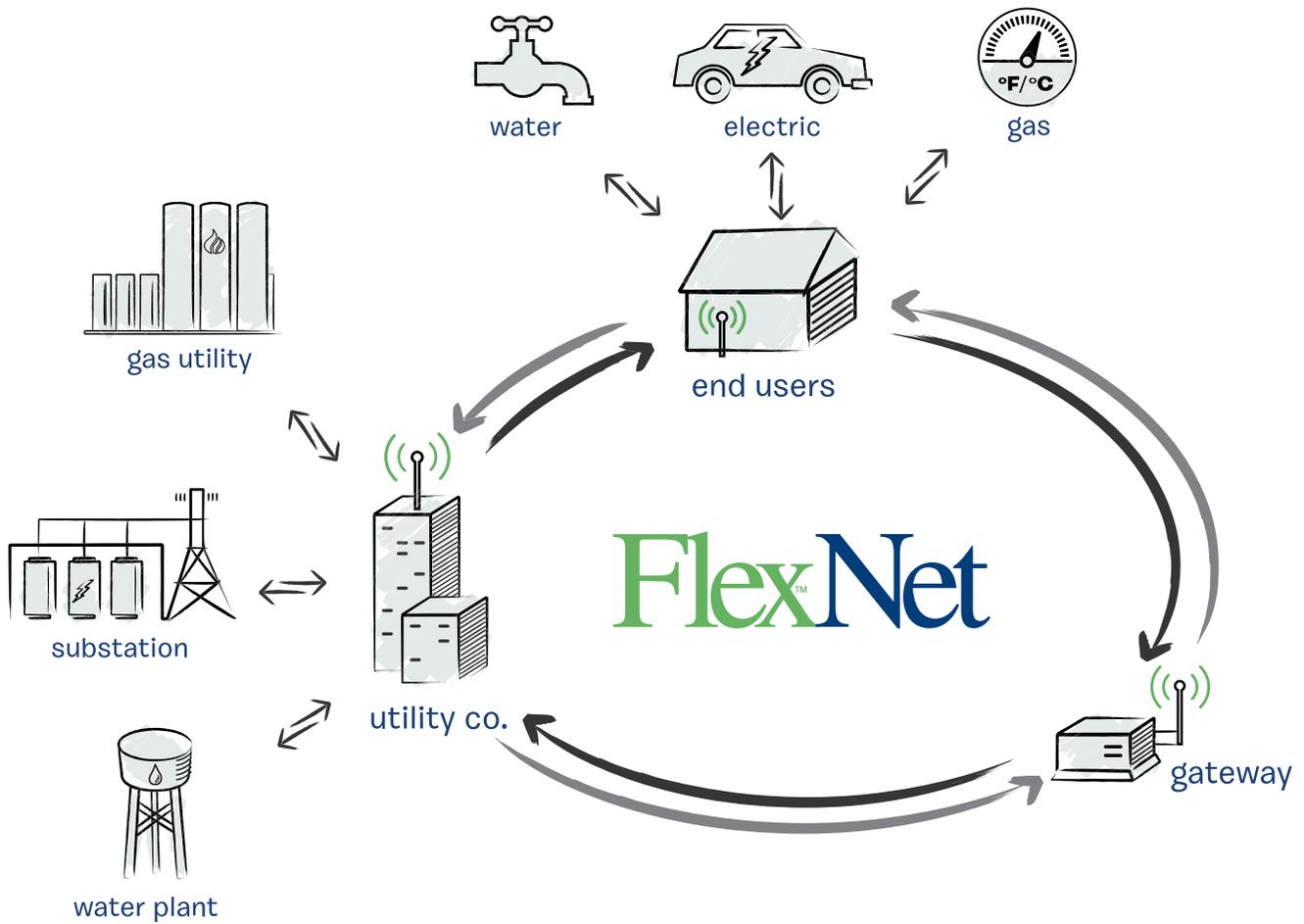
FlexNet systems have access to more than 4,000 tower sites covering more than 90 percent of the U.S. population. The tower-based architecture can be quickly deployed without concern for easement and access issues. And because FlexNet transmits stronger over a wider signal area, initial infrastructure build-out and ongoing maintenance costs are reduced.

**Multilayered security to protect data privacy and integrity.** Federal law prohibits infringement on licensed spectrum. On top of that, the FlexNet system adds multiple layers of built-in security, from strong AES-256 encryption to multilevel authentication, access controls and more for premium protection. With less traffic to interfere with communication, data is transmitted more securely.

**Meeting utility needs today and tomorrow.** FlexNet gives gas, water and electric utilities the ability to add functionality to keep up with utility growth. Demand response, distribution automation, home area network and new applications can easily be incorporated into a utility's operations over the FlexNet network, a future-proof investment.

Conserve capital while maintaining flexibility and ensuring scalability, whether you want to serve a few thousand homes or a few million.





## FlexNet™ – Technology that delivers

**Sensus Smart Meters** at customer premises communicate consumption, status and diagnostic data to the FlexNet network for monitoring and billing purposes.

Energy meters also accept control instructions and software upgrades from the utility to intelligently manage consumption and remotely upgrade features and services.

Wireless communication between meters and towers is securely carried on licensed radio spectrum for distances of up to 40 miles, depending on the environment.

**Sensus Tower Gateway Base Stations** (TGBs) installed on existing towers (50–600 feet tall) communicate with SmartPoint meters and with the Regional Network Interface (RNI).

Backhaul communication between towers and the utility data center can be wireless, wired or satellite, whichever best suits the utility's business case.

**Sensus Regional Network Interface** (RNI) servers at the utility's data center manage network communications and data storage and processing.

**Sensus FlexWare** software provides an intuitive, Web-based interface to manage the system and its data.

The **Sensus FlexServer** Web-based portal enhances utility monitoring and management, expands consumer participation and improves public outreach.

Sensus is redefining the standard for utility AMI systems.

- The highest data transmission power in the industry
- No interference from other broadcasters
- Blanket coverage of your entire area
- Maximum range, reliability and security
- Minimal infrastructure for flexible and rapid build-out
- Robust, direct, secure communications

# FlexNet™ – Technology without limits

## FlexNet Water

FlexNet gives water utilities an acoustic leak detection solution that saves not only valuable natural resources but also lost revenue due to leaks in utility lines.

FlexNet SmartPoint M2 series transceivers offer water utilities two-way, fully migratable, AMR-to-AMI solutions and unprecedented freedom to expand and modify system capabilities without having to replace or revisit meters and equipment.

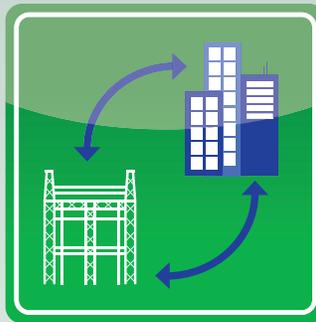


Smart utilities are using FlexNet data capabilities to inform and interact with customers and promote good conservation practices.

## FlexNet Electric

The Sensus Smart Grid solution provides electric utilities with a standards-based, secure, dedicated, two-way, long-range wireless data communications network that will future-proof their AMI investment.

Electric utilities of all sizes benefit from our FlexNet dedicated RF spectrum with the ability to assign separate communications channels for discrete applications, such as distribution automation, demand response and SCADA.



The unparalleled RF design and operational efficiencies of Sensus can blanket a utility's entire service territory to deliver ubiquitous coverage.

## FlexNet Gas

FlexNet allows gas utilities to increase meter reading accuracy, reduce overhead costs and enhance customer service – all while keeping more utility trucks off the road.

The innovative gas product line produced by Sensus combined with the FlexNet secure, reliable communications network delivers a gas AMI solution that expands easily and meets the requirements for safety and accuracy. Minimal infrastructure means lower maintenance cost and ease of installation.



FlexNet lets gas utilities excel in safety, reliability, efficiency and environmental responsibility, because no one has energy to burn.



## We're not just promising results. We're delivering the smart grid today.

With roots that go back more than a century, Sensus is redefining the way utilities think about metering. Not only are we the world's largest manufacturer of water meters, we are now a leading innovator and installer of utility communications and automation systems that put the "smart" in smart metering.

We are literally building on that foundation every day as we manage hundreds of deployments and install millions of endpoints in the United States, Canada and Europe.

Whether your utility is rural or urban – electric, gas, water or a combination – a FlexNet solution can deliver superior communications on a secure network that scales to meet your current and future needs.

Find out more about how the Sensus FlexNet system redefines the possibilities for intelligently managing costs, resources, infrastructure and customer engagement.

Visit us on the Web at [www.sensus.com](http://www.sensus.com) or call **1-800-638-3748**.