



# MDMS UPDATE

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## FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER

By: Michael Ott, MDMS Project Manager, USACE—Huntsville Center



**Michael Ott, Project Manager, MDMS  
USACE—Huntsville Center**

The second quarter of FY2016 sees the Meter Data Management System (MDMS) undergoing needed improvements in its data staging and warehousing structure. When finished, these improvements will increase processing speed and create the solid foundation needed to support growth in the number of meters reporting to the MDMS as well as increased functionality. Future newsletters will announce when improvements and new features are implemented.

*The Importance of Accurate Facility Data* explains how facility data is associated with meter data and the Energy Manager's role in helping to ensure the accuracy of that data. We announced the new Army Meter Service Desk in our last issue, but *Help AMSD Help You* adds practical guidelines on getting the best assistance from the AMSD, especially on occasions when meters fail to report. *Upcoming Energy Events* gives important reminders of four major upcoming energy conferences.

*Answers to Your COTS Software Questions* addresses some of the issues and questions most frequently asked about the ongoing Commercial Off The Shelf (COTS) software evaluation.

In *Welcome New Sites* we welcome Forts Sill, Drum, Hood and Hamilton and Watervliet Arsenal. It's our pleasure to also announce three new sites in Japan: Camp Zama, Kure and Okinawa.

The Corps of Engineers needs your participation in two major MDMS initiatives. First, we are seeking Energy Managers to evaluate the COTS software from the four finalists. Second, you are invited to become a part of the Deep Dives initiative through which you can share success stories on how the use of energy data has helped save energy at your installation. As always we welcome your feedback at: [usarmy.coe-huntsville.cehnc.mbx.armymeterhelp@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.coe-huntsville.cehnc.mbx.armymeterhelp@mail.mil).

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## ANSWERS TO YOUR COTS SOFTWARE QUESTIONS

Previous issues of *MDMS Update* have addressed the ongoing evaluation of Commercial Off The Shelf (COTS) software for meter data analysis and user interface. Here are answers to frequently asked questions:

**Q: Why is MDMS considering transition to COTS software?**

A: Army energy managers who participated in the market research of various COTS software for performance of meter data analysis found that several COTS products offered highly useful functions and features. It has been determined that the purchase of a COTS product would likely be less costly than in-house development of the high priority functions and features using the existing MDMS software.

**Q: Will conversion to a COTS software require replacing the hardware and/or software used to transmit meter data to MDMS?**

A: No. The COTS software will use the existing MDMS database and will have no effect upon how meter data is transmitted to MDMS.

**Q: What is the current status of the COTS evaluation?**

A: We have narrowed the field to four vendors that are soon to begin offering access to a trial version of their software for evaluation by Army Energy Manager representatives. If you want to be one of the testers, please send an email with "COTS software" as the subject to: [usarmy.coe-huntsville.cehnc.mbx.armymeterhelp@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.coe-huntsville.cehnc.mbx.armymeterhelp@mail.mil).

**Q: Will training be provided on how to use the selected COTS software?**

A: The cost for user training will be included in the COTS software decision brief to the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management (OACSIM) leadership.

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## MDMS UPDATE

### THE IMPORTANCE OF ACCURATE FACILITY DATA

Most would agree that meter data without building information is pretty useless. For the MDMS, the only authorized source of facility data is the Army's Real Property Inventory (RPI). This database includes the building number, street address, square footage, category use code, year constructed, the type of construction and numerous other data fields. By design, the MDMS does not permit anyone to manually enter facility data. The purpose of this restriction is to preserve the integrity of the RPI as the only database of record for all Army real property.

Each of the approximately 900,000 buildings in the RPI has a Real Property Asset Unique Identifier (RPAUID). The appropriate RPAUID must be associated with each meter installed on a building. This association is performed by the MDMS contractor whenever an installation is initially connected to MDMS. Afterward, the installation Energy Manager should include the RPAUID along with building number when submitting an Army Meter Service Desk (AMSD) ticket to add another metered facility to the MDMS. The RPAUID can be obtained from the local or MACOM's Real Property Management Office.

An AMSD ticket for a new metered facility will initiate the coordination and the decision making required to make the connection to MDMS happen. An AMSD ticket is required regardless of who connects the new meter to the existing meter network infrastructure. A new meter will not show up in MDMS until the MDMS contractor assigns it to a site. Moreover, the meter must be associated with the appropriate RPAUID, before the

energy manager can generate all of the reports available in the MDMS.

*Unassigned meters* are those that have yet to be, or cannot be associated with a facility. The MDMS is currently designed to support only facility meters. Recently, the MDMS has been connected to installation servers that collect data from meters associated with Utility Monitoring and Control Systems (UMCS). The UMCS includes meters installed on electrical substations, chillers and other equipment. Until MDMS is re-designed to distinguish the submeters from whole facility meters, assignment of submeters to particular facilities must be deferred. The building usage report aggregates all the electrical and/or Natural Gas meters assigned to a facility. Inclusion of submeters would have the effect of double counting energy usage for that facility.

*RPI Data Accuracy.* Occasionally, some of the facility data in the RPI may be incorrect or out of date. Whenever errors are discovered, Energy Managers should contact the installation or MACOM Real Property Management Office. "We can't overemphasize how important it is to have correct information on the building," says Stan Lee, General Dynamics IT MDMS program manager. "The Energy Manager is on the front line for ensuring accuracy of building data."

*Expansion of Facility Data.* As discussed previously in *MDMS Update*, a major objective of MDMS is to increase the amount of contextual information about the metered facilities. This would allow users to perform more detailed and insightful queries and comparisons. Lee concludes, "We appreciate the importance of facility information and are giving it equal priority in our planning to improve the MDMS."

### NEW DISCUSSION BOARD SEEKS YOUR INPUT

With this issue, *MDMS Update* announces a new tool to aid in communicating with you, the MDMS end user. Rollout of the new MDMS Discussion Board will allow two-way communication about MDMS issues and topics.

While *MDMS Update* allows us to provide needed information about the program, it is realized that many of you have program concerns and questions. The new *MDMS Discussion Board* offers the chance to ask questions, initiate discussions and engage other MDMS end users.

Each month, the *MDMS Discussion Board* will offer a new topic selected from input to the Army Meter Service Desk, comments to gateway connection teams and other sources. *We encourage your feedback.* Discussion Board rules are simple and straightforward, as follows:

- Please limit your responses to the posted topic.
- Keep your response brief: about 300 words.
- Avoid harsh language and insults to the comments of other responders.
- Be constructive in criticism. Don't just gripe or complain, but offer possible solutions.

The March topic: ***What is the most important aspect of the MDMS program to you?***

Look for the Discussion Board area on the CAC- authenticated AMSD website: <https://army.deps.mil/NETCOM/EEDRS/SitePages/AMSD.aspx>. For further assistance, contact AMSD at 256-971-2141 (Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. CT) or use the web address. We look forward to hearing from you.



## HELP AMSD HELP YOU



As we approach the end of the second quarter 2016, the Army and MDMS contractor are progressing toward an ultimate goal of meeting the DOD mandate to capture energy usage on Army and National Guard installations worldwide. But this progress also creates challenges in meter reporting. This article details how to most effectively secure troubleshooting assistance from the Army Meter Service Desk (AMSD) in the event of meter malfunctions.

Customers of the MDMS and meters installed by the Army Metering Program (AMP) can begin troubleshooting the problem by doing some preliminary research on their own via the new AMSD CAC-authenticated website (<https://army.deps.mil/NETCOM/EEDRS/SitePages/AMSD.aspx>). This website provides MDMS online tutorials, Knowledge Base artifacts (Acronyms, Glossary, FAQs & Lessons Learned, POCs) and an AMSD-monitored Discussion Board, which can be used to exchange information with others (see pg. 2).

The website provides tools for additional troubleshooting. For example, if the installation's meters are not reporting to the MDMS, the user can verify installation status by selecting the "Meters" drop down on the MDMS menu bar and running the "Meter status roll-up" report. This report shows the number of meters currently reporting

and the status of the AMP architecture. If the outage is specific to a building or set of meters, the user can also run the "Meter status details" report, which breaks down the meter status in a hierarchy structured view. From the "Support" tab on the MDMS menu bar, MDMS users can also submit a "Feedback/Help Request." Use the pull down to enter your phone number, email address and feedback category. Describe the problem as accurately as possible in the 2500-character text field.

AMP and MDMS customers can also contact the AMSD directly via email ([usarmy.coe-huntsville.cehnc.mbx.armymeterhelp@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.coe-huntsville.cehnc.mbx.armymeterhelp@mail.mil)) or phone (256-971-2141; 7 a.m.-5 p.m. CT, Monday-Friday).

When contacting the AMSD, you will be asked several questions that will help lead to quicker resolution. "I would advise Energy Managers to provide us with as much information as possible," said General Dynamics IT AMSD Supervisor Kim Nay. For example, provide the actual names of the Network Enterprise Center (NEC) personnel who have access to the AMP architecture (i.e. EEDRS server).

The newly expanded Army Meter Service Desk (AMSD) has trained personnel who are ready to assist you with most issues related to MDMS and AMP-installed meters. The USACE Huntsville Center stood up the AMSD to support the Army Metering Program and MDMS customers worldwide. Our goal is to be of service. Use these points to help us help you!

## WELCOME NEW SITES/METERED FACILITIES

MDMS is continuing to expand with the addition of five new CONUS installations and three OCONUS installations since Jan. 1. The new CONUS sites include Fort Hood, Texas; and Fort Sill, Oklahoma; and three sites in New York state: Fort Drum and Fort Hamilton and Watervliet Arsenal.

As of Feb. 13, hundreds of new electric, gas and water meters have been installed, although it should be understood that not all are currently reporting to MDMS.

"We're very pleased to see these new installations come online to MDMS. This demonstrates our commitment to the MDMS program and the progress we are making toward achieving our 2016 installation goals," said Michael Ott, USACE MDMS Project Manager.

We can now report that MDMS has jumped across the

Pacific Ocean with installations in Japan. General Dynamics IT MDMS Project Manager Rick Layne said the gateway deployment team traveled to Camp Zama, Japan, the week of Feb. 8 to install two MDMS gateway servers at Camp Zama. These actions resulted in three new sites, Camp Zama, Kure and Okinawa, to be brought online.

With every issue of *MDMS Update* we will keep our end users informed about the growth of the Army's MDMS program, with the latest information on new sites and totals of installed and connected meters.



## UPCOMING ENERGY EVENTS

This brief listing of major upcoming energy conferences, events and workshops may be of interest to Army and National Guard Energy Managers. Listing of these meetings does not imply endorsement by the U.S. Army or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

### **2016 ACEEE Energy Efficiency Finance Forum**

May 22-24 Newport, Rhode Island  
Energy efficiency, a key element in utility resource planning, has taken on a new level of importance both domestically and internationally. Recent formalization of the Clean Power Plan and international agreements to reduce carbon emissions make energy efficiency even more important. This conference brings together private and Federal energy practitioners, researchers and institutional consumers to explore efficient capital deployment solutions. Early registration discounts are available: [aceee.org/conferences/2016](http://aceee.org/conferences/2016).

### **EIA Energy Conference**

July 11-12, Washington, D.C.  
Sponsored by the U.S. Energy Information Administration, this annual meeting brings together Federal and private-sector energy practitioners to promote the exchange of energy information. Register at [www.fbcinc.com](http://www.fbcinc.com). Early bird discounts are available.



### **Energy Exchange: Federal Sustainability for the Next Decade**

August 9-11, Providence, Rhode Island  
This Federal sector educational and networking forum is important for those wanting to expand their knowledge of building operations, efficient energy management and sustainability. In the tradition of GovEnergy, the trade show will feature hundreds of exhibitors, and dozens of training sessions will explore opportunities and the many challenges facing military and civilian agencies.

The deadline for early bird registration is June 10 with registration fee of \$175 for government attendees; fee increases to \$250 afterward. Register at <http://energy.gov/eere/femp/>.

### **World Energy Engineering Conference**

September 21-23, Washington, D.C.  
Presented by the Association of Energy Engineers, WEEC is recognized as one of the most important energy conferences for energy professionals and end users across the energy field. Learn more about how the regulatory developments and industry trends all merge to shape your critical decisions, as well as define what specific steps are needed to achieve optimum energy efficiency and performance within your organization. Register at <http://www.energycongress.com/>.

## COTS/DEEP DIVES: JUST A FEW MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Participation is progressing in two major MDMS initiatives, the COTS software evaluation and the Deep Dives program, with announcement of the first group of volunteers. The MDMS contractor is pleased to announce that eight energy managers have volunteered to participate.

Our Dec/Jan issue reported that MDMS is seeking energy managers to participate in evaluation of MDMS software from the down-selected four software finalists: Johnson Controls, Schneider Electric, Iconics and OSI Soft. Evaluations are assessing the effectiveness of the four packages in terms of several factors, including ease of operation, reliability and ability to generate reports.

The MDMS Deep Dives effort involves on-site meetings with Energy Managers to conduct detailed reviews of meter data collected in MDMS or other Army metering programs. The goal is to conduct discussions of specific findings that indicate potential sources of energy waste and/or energy savings opportunities. Energy Managers will exercise total control including granting of final approval of any sharing of findings associated with their facility meter data.

To participate, email the Army Meter Service Desk at:

[usarmy.coe.huntsville.cehnc.mbx.armymeterhelp@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.coe.huntsville.cehnc.mbx.armymeterhelp@mail.mil).

## ANSWERS TO YOUR COTS SOFTWARE QUESTIONS

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**Q: What are the final steps after submittal of a software vendor recommendation?**

- **Authorization and Purchase Funding:** Senior Army leadership will evaluate the contractor recommendation and if it decides to proceed, will authorize funding.
- **Cybersecurity Evaluation:** the chosen software will undergo the DOD information assurance certification process.
- **Implementation:** the selected software will be adapted to the MDMS data warehouse. This can be accomplished concurrently with cybersecurity accreditation.
- **End user training:** A definite "must have" to ensure successful launch of the COTS software. Webinars, video tutorials and extensive "how-to" help menus will be provided as part of the COTS roll-out.

