

# Elster Electricity announces first US system wide commitment for both electric and water meter automation in the City of Fredericksburg, Texas

*EnergyAxis® System offers state-of-the-art technology to help improve billing efficiencies, time management, and customer service*

**Raleigh, North Carolina, U.S.A., April 25, 2006** – Elster Electricity, LLC announces its first EnergyAxis System deployment in the Lone Star State’s City of Fredericksburg, Texas. This is Elster’s first commitment for a complete system wide deployment of both electric and water meter automation in the United States. The EnergyAxis System is an advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) system for residential, commercial, and industrial electric and water metering applications. Deployment will take place in stages over a three-year period encompassing approximately 5,290 electric meters and 5,071 water meters installed at residential and commercial locations. The City expects to improve billing efficiencies with more accurate and timely bills.

“It has been an extreme pleasure working with the Elster support team on this project,” stated Russell Immel, information systems manager at the City of Fredericksburg. “The support we have received has exceeded our initial expectations. The preparation, training, thoroughness of installation, quick response time, and follow-up by the Elster team have been excellent.”

The EnergyAxis System was selected by the City for its controlled mesh network technology, its user-friendly features, and its minimal number of system components. Elster’s system meets the City’s requirement for remotely accessing meter data from both electric and water meters. Having a limited staff with increasing responsibilities, the City wanted to implement a state-of-the-art advanced meter reading system that did not require extensive planning, infrastructure, administration, or resources to deploy. Another main deciding factor was the system’s ability to read water meters in service areas where the City does not manage the electricity service.

Elster’s EnergyAxis Metering Automation Server (MAS) allows the City to perform on-demand meter reads. In the future, the City plans to implement the remote service connect and disconnect feature. The automated functionality of MAS helps save time and improves time management efficiency for system operators. The City expects to improve customer service with the system’s capability to perform daily reads and to retrieve meter data from past months.

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“As Elster’s first electric and water project deployment in the US, we are pleased that the City of Fredericksburg experienced a nearly flawless initial implementation and a successful completion of integration testing with their Springbrook billing system in just a few months,” stated Bob Dumas, manager of system projects at Elster. “It’s been very satisfying to meet the needs of a success-oriented customer.”

### **About the EnergyAxis System**

The EnergyAxis System uses powerful two-way RF communications system to retrieve metering information directly from meters. The communication network uses a spread spectrum, frequency-hopping technology with self-registration to provide secure, reliable communications between meters and data collectors. This technology enables individual meters to act as repeaters, creating a dynamic communication path that optimizes signal strength of the RF and reliability of the communication link. With residential REX® meters, A3 ALPHA® meter collectors, and polyphase A3 ALPHA meters, the EnergyAxis System is a complete metering automation solution that enables utilities to deploy a system that provides thorough territorial coverage.

### **About the City of Fredericksburg, TX**

The City of Fredericksburg (population 10,087) is located in the scenic hills of Gillespie County. With a progressive atmosphere, yet small town feel, the City has blended German heritage and Texan hospitality for over 150 years. Tourism and agriculture are thriving contributors to the area’s prosperity. The City was recently designated as a “Preserve America” community by the White House for demonstrating a commitment to preserve its American heritage while ensuring a future filled with opportunities for learning and enjoyment. For more information, visit [www.fbgtx.org](http://www.fbgtx.org).

### **About Elster Electricity, LLC**

Elster Electricity is a provider of advanced metering infrastructure solutions to help utilities improve revenue cycle services, customer service, delivery reliability, and workforce utilization. Elster is located in Raleigh, North Carolina and is part of the world's largest multi-utility metering company for electricity, water, and gas metering. For more information, visit [www.elsterelectricity.com](http://www.elsterelectricity.com).

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