

Title (en)
Commodity metering systems.

Title (de)
System zur Abgabe von Verbrauchsmitteln.

Title (fr)
Système de distribution de services.

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EP 0419106 A1 19910327 (EN)

Application
EP 90309892 A 19900910

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GB 8920446 A 19890909

Abstract (en)
A commodity metering system, particularly for metering electricity, comprises a credit meter having an optical port via which it can be reprogrammed and its readings of the amount of the commodity supplied can be accessed. To convert the meter into a prepayment metering system, a separate prepayment unit is connected to it by means of an optical link which is sealingly coupled to the optical port of the meter. The prepayment unit stores credit read from credit tokens, typically in the form of electronic keys, smart cards or magnetic cards, and periodically reads the meter via the optical link. When the monetary value of the amount of the commodity supplied equals the value of the credit stored, the prepayment unit cuts off the supply of the commodity. The prepayment unit also has an optical port, which communicates via the optical link with the optical port of the meter and via which the meter readings can be accessed and both the meter and the prepayment unit can be reprogrammed.

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CPC (source: EP)
G07F 15/00 (2013.01); **G07F 17/0014** (2013.01)

Citation (search report)

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