

Title (en)

Optical communication system for utility meters

Title (de)

Optisches-übertragungssystem für Verbrauchszählern

Title (fr)

System de communication optique pour compteurs de consommation

Publication

**EP 0974946 A2 20000126 (EN)**

Application

**EP 99114445 A 19990722**

Priority

- GB 9815945 A 19980723
- GB 9815943 A 19980723

Abstract (en)

The present invention relates to an improved optical communication system for gas or electricity meters. The system comprises a transmitter and a receiver disposed on a utility meter, and a further transmitter and receiver disposed on a receiver unit. The utility meter transmitter is arranged to transmit a data signal and a further signal to the receiver unit, with the further signal having a pulse width greater than a pulse width of the data signal. The receiver unit further comprises a separation means for separating the data signal and the further signal based on pulse width. The further signal may contain calibration information or be used to link the meter to external equipment. The present invention advantageously allows for a reduction in component parts while enhancing the functionality of the meter. <IMAGE>

IPC 1-7

**G08C 23/04**; **G08C 19/22**

IPC 8 full level

**G08C 23/04** (2006.01)

CPC (source: EP)

**G08C 23/04** (2013.01); **G08C 2201/51** (2013.01)

Designated contracting state (EPC)

AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC NL PT SE

DOCDB simple family (publication)

**EP 0974946 A2 20000126**; **EP 0974946 A3 20050413**; GB 2339986 A 20000209; GB 9917108 D0 19990922

DOCDB simple family (application)

**EP 99114445 A 19990722**; GB 9917108 A 19990722