CLAIMS

~~What is claimed is:~~

1. A system comprising:

a Network Management System (NMS) headend system configured to manage a network;

a utility meter comprising a radio and configured to measure consumption of a resource ~~and to~~, wherein:

the utility meter is configured to join the network;

the utility meter is configured to obtain an Internet Protocol (IP) address of a first headend system, being the NMS headend system, to communicate with the first headend system;

the utility meter is configured to transmit a network registration request to the NMS headend system using the IP address of the NMS headend system;

the utility meter is configured to receive from the NMS headend system network-related settings of the network;

the utility meter is configured to obtain an IP address of a second headend system to communicate with the second headend system, wherein the second headend system is configured to provide a service over the network;

the utility meter is configured to receive ~~from the second headend system~~ configuration ~~settings~~ data for using the service of the second headend system; and

the utility meter is configured to configure the radio with the network-related settings and the configuration ~~settings~~ data of the second headend system to enable the utility meter to communicate with two or more headend systems to utilize services of the two or more headend systems,

wherein the utility meter sends a first communication to the IP address of the first headend system, in lieu of sending the first communication to the NMS headend system, when utilizing a service of the first headend system and sends a second communication to the IP address of the second headend system, in lieu of sending the second communication to the NMS headend system, when utilizing the service of the second headend system.

2. The system of clam 1, further comprising a gateway configured to relay communications from the utility meter to each of the NMS headend system and the second headend system.

3. The system of clam 2, further comprising an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) headend system, wherein the gateway is a collector configured to:

collect from the utility meter consumption data describing consumption of the resource; and

transmit the consumption data to the AMI headend system.

4. The system of clam 2, wherein the gateway notifies the utility meter of the IP address of the second headend system.

~~5. The system of claim 2, wherein the gateway is a Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol version 6 (DHCPv6) relay.~~

~~6. The system of claim 5, wherein the utility meter is a DHCPv6 client.~~

~~7~~5. The system of claim 1, wherein the second headend system is at least one of ~~an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) headend system,~~ an Outage Management System (OMS) headend system, a Distribution Automation (DA) headend system, or an Edge Application Management System (EAMS) headend system.

~~8~~6. The system of claim 1, wherein:

the NMS headend system informs the second headend system of the network registration request from the utility meter;

the second headend system transmits the configuration settings to the NMS headend system; and

the NMS headend system transmits the ~~second~~ configuration ~~settings to the utility meter~~ data to the utility meter, wherein the configuration data enables the utility meter to utilize the service of the second headend system over the network without routing a communication for the service through the NMS headend system.

~~9~~7. The system of claim 1, wherein: the utility meter transmits a second registration request to the second headend system using the IP address of the second headend system, ~~and~~ wherein the second headend system transmits the configuration ~~settings~~ data to the utility meter responsive to the second registration request, and the configuration date enables the utility

meter to utilize the service of the second headend system over the network without routing a communication for the service through the NMS headend system.

~~10~~8. The system of claim 1, wherein the utility meter communicates with the NMS headend system using a first communication protocol and communicates with the second headend system using a second communication protocol.

~~11~~9. The system of claim ~~10~~ 8, wherein the second communication protocol uses at least one of a different network or a different radio band than does the first communication protocol.

~~12~~10. The system of claim ~~10~~ 8, wherein the NMS headend system informs the utility meter of the second communication protocol of the second headend system.

~~13~~11. A method performed by a utility meter that measures consumption of a resource, the method comprising:

joining, by the utility meter, a network, wherein the utility meter is configured to communicate with a first headend system, being a Network Management System (NMS) headend system of the network;

transmitting, by the utility meter, a registration request to ~~a Network Management System (NMS)~~ the NMS headend system of the network, wherein the NMS headend system informs a second headend system of the registration request;

receiving, by the utility meter, from the NMS headend system network-related settings related to the network and configuration data related to the second headend system, wherein the configuration data indicates an Internet Protocol (IP) address of the second headend system and indicates how to use a service of the second headend system; and

configuring, by the utility meter, a radio of the utility meter according to the network-related settings and according to the configuration data of the second headend system~~;~~ to enable the utility meter to communicate with two or more headend systems to utilize the services of two or more headend systems,

wherein the utility meter ~~is configured~~ sends a first communication to ~~communicate with~~ an IP address of the ~~second~~ first headend system ~~using~~ in lieu of sending the first communication to the NMS headend system, when utilizing a service of the first headend system and sends a second communication to the IP address of the second headend system ~~to~~

~~use a service~~, in lieu of sending the second communication to the NMS headend system, when utilizing the service of the second headend system.

~~14~~12. The method of claim ~~13~~ 11, further comprising:

receiving ~~an~~ the IP address of the NMS headend system from a gateway, wherein the gateway relays communications for the utility meter;

wherein the gateway is a collector of consumption data from two or more utility meters, and wherein the consumption data describes consumption of the resource measured by the two or more utility meters.

~~15~~13. The method of claim ~~13~~ 11, further comprising communicating with the NMS headend system using a first communication protocol and communicating with the second headend system using a second communication protocol.

~~16~~14. The method of claim ~~15~~ 13, wherein the configuration data received from the NMS headend system indicates the second communication protocol for use with the second headend system.

~~17~~15. A method performed by a utility meter, the method comprising:

joining, by the utility meter, a network~~;~~,

~~transmitting a first registration request to~~ wherein the utility meter is configured to communicate with a first headend system, being a Network Management System (NMS) headend system of the network;

transmitting, by the utility meter, a first registration request to the NMS headend system of the network;

receiving, by the utility meter, from the NMS headend system network-related settings related to the network, responsive to the first registration request;

obtaining, by the utility meter, an Internet Protocol (IP) address of a second headend system that provides a service over the network;

transmitting, by the utility meter, a second registration request to the IP address of the second headend system;

receiving, by the utility meter, configuration data from the second headend system, wherein the configuration data indicates how to use the service of the second headend system, responsive to the second registration request; and

configuring, by the utility meter, a radio of the utility meter according to the network-related settings and according to the configuration data of the second headend system. to enable the utility meter to communicate with two or more headend systems to utilize the services of two or more headend systems,

wherein the utility meter sends a first communication to an IP address of the first headend system, in lieu of sending the first communication to the NMS headend system, when utilizing a service of the first headend system and sends a second communication to the IP address of the second headend system, in lieu of sending the second communication to the NMS headend system, when utilizing the service of the second headend system.

~~18~~16. The method of claim ~~17~~ 15, wherein obtaining the IP address of the second headend system comprises receiving the IP address of the second headend system from at least one of the NMS headend system.

~~19. The method of claim 17, wherein obtaining the IP address of the second headend system comprises receiving the IP address from~~ or a gateway configured to relay messages for the utility meter.

~~20~~17. The method of claim ~~17~~ 15, wherein transmitting the first registration request to the NMS headend system comprises using a first communication protocol associated with the NMS, and wherein transmitting the second registration request to the second headend system comprises using a second communication protocol associated with the second headend system.