

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for programming global positioning system (GPS) coordinates for a smart meter, the method comprising:
 - receiving, by a server remote from the smart meter, an image file of a photograph of the smart meter;
 - recognizing identification information of the smart meter from the image file;
 - extracting GPS coordinates from metadata of the received image file;
 - transmitting the GPS coordinates and instructions to store the GPS coordinates to the smart meter identified by the identification information; and
 - storing, by a processor of the smart meter, the GPS coordinates in a memory of the smart meter.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the recognizing the identification information of the smart meter comprises performing image recognition on the received image file.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - storing the GPS coordinates in a database record associated with the identification information of the smart meter.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the photograph of the smart meter is captured by a camera on a smart device, and
 - an application executing on the smart device causes the image file to be transmitted to the server.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the smart device communicates with the server via Internet or cellular service.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the identification information of the smart meter comprises an identification number in a form of an alphanumeric code, a barcode, or a Quick Response (QR) code.
7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - prior to transmitting the GPS coordinates and instructions:

determining that the smart meter has not joined an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) network; and

delaying transmission of the GPS coordinates and instructions until the smart meter joins the AMI network.

8. A system, comprising:

a smart device operable to execute an application;

a smart meter including a processor and a memory; and

a remote server operable to communicate with the smart device and the smart meter, the remote server configured to:

receive, from an application executing on the smart device, an image file of a photograph of the smart meter;

recognize identification information of the smart meter from the image file;

extract GPS coordinates from metadata of the image file; and

transmit the GPS coordinates and instructions to store the GPS coordinates to the smart meter identified by the identification information,

wherein the processor of the smart meter is configured to store the GPS coordinates in the memory of the smart meter.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the remote server is further configured to perform image recognition on the received image file to recognize the identification information of the smart meter.

10. The system of claim 8, wherein the remote server is further configured to store the GPS coordinates in a database record associated with the identification information of the smart meter.

11. The system of claim 8, wherein the photograph of the smart meter is captured by a camera on the smart device, and

the application executing on the smart device causes the image file to be transmitted to the remote server.

12. The system of claim 11, the smart device communicates with the remote server via Internet or cellular service.

13. The system of claim 8, wherein the identification information of the smart meter comprises an identification number in a form of an alphanumeric code, a barcode, or a Quick Response (QR) code.
14. The system of claim 8, wherein the smart meter and the remote server communicate via an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) network.
15. The system of claim 14, wherein prior to transmitting the GPS coordinates and instructions, the remote server is further configured to:
- determine that the smart meter has not joined the AMI network; and
 - delay transmission of the GPS coordinates and instructions until the smart meter joins the AMI network.
16. A non-transitory computer readable medium having stored therein instructions for making a processor of a remote computer system execute a method for programming GPS coordinates for a smart meter, the processor executable instructions comprising instructions for performing operations including:
- receiving an image file of a photograph of the smart meter;
 - recognizing identification information of the smart meter from the image file;
 - extracting GPS coordinates from metadata of the image file; and
 - transmitting the GPS coordinates and instructions to store the GPS coordinates to the smart meter identified by the identification information.
17. The non-transitory computer readable medium as defined in claim 16, further comprising instructions for performing operations including:
- performing image recognition on the received image file to recognize the identification information of the smart meter.
18. The non-transitory computer readable medium as defined in claim 16, further comprising instructions for performing operations including:
- storing the GPS coordinates in a database record associated with the identification information of the smart meter.
19. The non-transitory computer readable medium as defined in claim 16, wherein the identification information of the smart meter comprises an identification number in a form of an alphanumeric code, a barcode, or a Quick Response (QR) code.

20. The non-transitory computer readable medium as defined in claim 16, further comprising instructions for performing operations including:

prior to transmitting the GPS coordinates and instructions:

determining that the smart meter has not joined an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) network; and

delaying transmission of the GPS coordinates and instructions until the smart meter joins the AMI network.