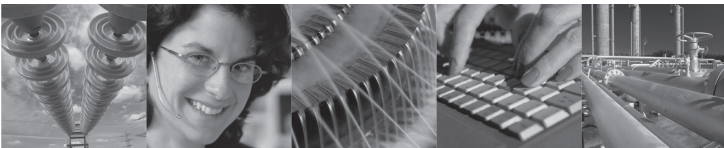


METER-U



METER READING OPPORTUNITIES

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www.meter-u.com

METER

**OPPORTUNITIES
READING**

Introduction

METER READING OPPORTUNITIES WITH METER--U

Thank you for your interest in the advertised vacancy with Meter-U. We are looking for Data Collectors in your area to read electricity and gas meters for Siemens Energy Services plc on behalf of major electricity suppliers such as British Gas & Scottish Power.

If successful we will employ you directly for four months, during which time we will provide all training, equipment and on-site support. At the end of this initial four month period, suitable employees will be offered a fully supported franchise. The four month employment period will only be extended if authorised by the Operations Manager.

The franchise fee for all new starters from 1st of June 2011 will be £100 payable after the conversion date of the transitional to Franchisee of 2 instalments of £50 each month.

If you would like to know more about how to be part of the UK's fastest growing 'feet on the street' meter reading business, then read on.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours sincerely,



Gary Thomas

Recruitment Manager

What are we looking for?

We are looking for hard working people with their own transport who will call at customers' premises to read meters. It is physically demanding, requiring you to be on your feet all day and in all weathers, working on average a 40-hour week. You will need to work flexibly depending on where you are reading to maximise your income. You will be paid on a 'pay per reading' basis which increases according to the access rates achieved.

Hard work is rewarded directly. This **is** hard work. We make no apology for repeating ourselves; meter reading involves lots of walking, meeting people from all walks of life, in all weathers and in a variety of situations.

For the right person, this job is both enjoyable and well paid. We have franchisees that have been reading meters for many years, in some cases in excess of twenty years.

As you will work from home, you will need to be highly self-motivated and enjoy working independently. If you are looking for a 9-5 job and need a boss to look over you, this is not for you.

Who is Meter-U?

METER-U is the meter reading arm of our parent company Spice plc, which has businesses in many countries around the world. Spice plc has an annual turnover in excess of £150M and has been operating in the UK for over 10 years.

METER-U offers utility companies a dedicated meter reading service across the UK. We carry out over 20 million visits a year covering domestic, commercial and industrial premises; our contracts are serviced by over 600 franchisees! This involves a long-term relationship with Siemens bringing job security and a stable income to our existing staff. As our operating area expands, we need additional new franchisees around the UK.

Why franchising - what's it all about?

It is good for the Utility Industry, the franchisee and ultimately the customer, franchising produces a rare WIN – WIN – WIN situation:

- The Utility company gets higher access rates at lower cost
- The Franchisee has the incentive to maximise income
- The customer gets more factual readings

WORKING FOR YOURSELF – BUT NOT BY YOURSELF

Franchisees look after themselves, they don't need managers to tell them what to do and how to do it; this means we don't require layers of management and the cost savings of this are quite considerable. These savings are used to provide a much higher potential income for our franchisees than could be achieved by a directly employed meter reader.

Franchisees also benefit from a very tax efficient regime, which comes from running your own business.

We make sure you have the work available –
And your income is there when you expect it

Our Field Support Staff are there to ensure franchisees 'free their potential' to maximise their income, thus creating a better, self motivated workforce. In the background the dedicated Franchise Support Manager can put you in touch with recommended service providers including; Bank, Accountants and insurers. You will receive all the help you need to set up the franchise and allow you to get on with your job of reading meters.

We want Meter Readers – NOT business people!

Is there a cost?

Yes. The franchise fee for all new starters from the 1st of June will be **£100** payable after the conversion date of the transitional to Franchisee of 2 instalments of £50 each month.

What's involved?

You will be required to visit a number of properties per week, achieving a specified access rate, calling back on customers who were not at home during your first visit. This equates to around an 8-hour day, 40 hours a week. You will need to work flexibly within a working window set by the client from 8.00am to 8.00pm Monday to Friday and 8.00 to 6.00pm Saturday. You will use a computerised hand held unit to record the readings taken and download the information using mobile phone technology within the hand held unit.

What area would I cover?

Our people work within a 30 mile radius from their home address . You will need your own transport as this will involve visiting the outlying rural areas as well as the high-density housing estates within your designated area.

What can you earn?

There is no maximum. We pay you per reading and the rate varies from area to area depending on the degree of difficulty. Generally, our franchisees aim to visit an average of 250 properties per day, achieving access to meet the client's target, but this can vary according to customer density. The rates are set to produce a gross income ranging from £320 to in excess of £450 per week. Once you become a full franchisee, the rates per read increase in recognition of your commitment and experience. We may also offer a wider variety of work.

These figures are for illustration purposes only. We would hope you would better this.

What to do next?

1. If you think you are what we are looking for please call 08450 505 102 to book yourself onto the next available interview session
2. If there are no immediate interviews for your area you will be asked to return your application form to the Recruitment Team who will contact you once the interviews have been arranged
3. If you need any further information then please contact the Recruitment team on 0845 05 05 102. or email the Recruitment Manager
4. Gary Thomas at gary.thomas@meter.u.com

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Q What training is involved?** Initial induction training is typically 4 days, this covers classroom training and assessment and 2 days on-site training with an experienced meter reader.
You will be paid at National Minimum Wage rate during your time training.
- Q How am I employed?** Initially on a four-month fixed-term contract.
- Q When am I offered a Franchise?** Approximately 8 weeks after starting, subject to satisfactory performance this gives us about 2 months to get everything in place in time for you to continue as a franchisee after the 4 month contract has expired.
- Q What do I get for my £100 Franchise Fee?** This is the total cost of trading under our license which includes:
- ❖ Use of our Logo
 - ❖ Provision of work in your area
 - ❖ Guaranteed payment for work completed
 - ❖ Free access to our support team / structure and all that this entails
 - ❖ Agreed rates and calculations of payments due to you
 - ❖ Use of the latest technology belonging to our client
 - ❖ Access to all future contracts managed by Meter-U
 - ❖ Reduced rates for service providers. (insurance, Banking, Accountancy)
 - ❖ Full training as a Meter Reader to Client requirements
 - ❖ Initial supply of image wear
- Q How do I pay for the Franchise fee?**
We take two monthly payments of £50 when you start as a franchisee. Not as a temp employee
- Q What happens if I leave before the end of the 4 month fixed term?** There is no notice period in the first month, anytime after this you will need to provide at a minimum of a weeks' notice.
- Q How long will the franchise last?** For as long as we have a contract with our client. Meter-U has been in operation for over 10 years and so as you can see our contracts are long-term. **This is not a temporary job.**
- Q What about holidays?** During the initial 4-month period you will accrue 1.6 days paid holiday per month excluding bank holidays. Franchisees do not have set holiday periods but normally take around 4-5 weeks per annum. Franchisees do not receive holiday pay.
- Q How frequently do I get paid?** Franchisees are paid per calendar month in arrears on the 1st of each month. If you are a Transitional Franchisee you will be paid on the 22nd of the month.
- Q Are the properties we visit close together?** Yes normally, we visit the majority of properties in the areas in which we operate.

Q I'm using my own transport – is there mileage involved. Yes, our people work from home in their local area, usually within a 30-mile radius. This means sometimes working on your own doorstep and at other times at the far reaches of your local boundary. Most of the time your vehicle is parked up whilst you walk around. Occasionally you will need to drive door to door as we cover all types of properties; domestic and business, some of which are in rural areas.

Q Your meter reader said Meter-U are using the very latest in data collection technology? Yes. It is true; we can download and upload information whilst our data collectors are out in the field working. Hand held units also have a limited mobile phone capability. Unlike many other meter reading companies whose readers have to go home to upload or download via a telephone line, we use the latest mobile technology. This means we can put more work on our hand held unit at any time during the day, which makes us extremely flexible if we have to be, our work force is very pleased with this functionality.

We asked these Questions to our Franchisee's

Q How do you consistently achieve your access rate?

A Careful work planning, persistence, setting personal targets and using call back cards.

Q How do you maintain volume on visits?

A Commit to an 8 hour day, and be prepared to be flexible on finishing times.

Q Have you any comments or helpful hints?

A Prepare the night before. You have to be flexible with your hours, Saturdays can be very productive, what you put into it will be what you get out of it, this can be a well paid job, planning and preparation is the key to maximising your income.

Q Do you have a profile of your Franchisees?

A Yes we have some on this website and if you go on to fish 4 jobs, then profiles, Meter-U, you will see a profile of one of our franchisees.



- ▶ **Meter Reading**
- ▶ **Meter Operations**
- ▶ **Meter Installation**
- ▶ **Account Recovery**
- ▶ **Electricity**
- ▶ **Gas**
- ▶ **Water**

