

Launch of a New Service Plan for the Simplified Data Measurement Service “ekul”
The “ekul lite” Service Plan Utilizing the IoT Network “Sigfox”

February 19, 2019

Osaka Gas Co., Ltd.

Kyocera Communication Systems Co., Ltd.

We today announce that, from April 1, 2019, Osaka Gas Co., Ltd. (President: Takehiro Honjo; hereinafter, “Osaka Gas”) will start the “ekul lite” service plan (hereinafter, “the new service plan”), which utilizes the IoT network “Sigfox,” as a derivative plan of the simplified data measurement service “ekul.” The Sigfox network is provided by Kyocera Communication Systems Co., Ltd. (President: Yoshihito Kurose; hereinafter, “KCCS”), featuring low cost, low power consumption, and long-distance transmission.

Daigas Group has been offering various services, including the “Eneflex”^{*1} and “Motto Save”^{*2} services, to enable visual energy control and energy-saving control by using information and communications technology (ICT). In July 2016, Daigas Group introduced the simplified data measurement service “ekul” for business use, which has been well received by a wide range of customers as a low-cost measurement service. In recent years, the utilization of IoT has been watched with keen interest as a solution to various social issues, including the aging population and declining birthrate, labor shortages, and environmental/energy issues. To respond to the request of many customers for a simpler and less-costly version of IoT, we will launch the new service plan for customers wishing to start with the measurement of a few items.

KCCS provides the IoT network service “Sigfox,” which is operated by Sigfox S.A. (France), on an exclusive basis in Japan. Sigfox has been rolled out mainly in Europe and the United States, 60 countries in total, as a leading low-power wide-area (LPWA)^{*3} network. In Japan, the construction of Sigfox infrastructure and provision of the network service are carried out by KCCS. Since the start of the service in February 2017, the communications area has been expanded, resulting in a service coverage of 90% as of November 2018. The area expansion will be continued to achieve 97% coverage by summer 2019. Services using Sigfox are provided by as many as 425 Sigfox partners across Japan, offering help in a wide range of fields, including elderly and child monitoring services, remote water meter reading, and the introduction of water-level and precipitation monitoring systems.

The key features of the new service plan are as follows:

1. Simplified device configuration

The battery-powered measuring device with a simple configuration can directly communicate with the Sigfox base station to send measured information. This enables the introduction of IoT in a smaller space at lower cost through easier installation.

2. The measuring device can be installed anywhere thanks to battery-powered operation.

The adoption of Sigfox, which features low-power consumption and long-distance transmission, enables the measuring device to be operated with batteries and a wireless connection. As a result, the measuring device is subject to fewer restrictions on power-supply/signal wiring and installation locations.

3. Existing “ekul” service functions are also available.

Various service functions are available; for example, the checking of measured data via the internet at any time*⁴ and monitoring for excessive energy use. In addition, non-energy data measurement*⁵ can be combined. Furthermore, combined use with the existing “ekul” measuring device is possible.

We at Osaka Gas and KCCS will continue to help our customers grow their businesses by providing a wide variety of services.

*1 A service to visualize the operational status of a gas heating and air-conditioning system’s gas engine heat pump (GHP) and the small-scale gas cogeneration system “Gene-Lite,” and to control the GHP in an energy-saving manner

*2 A simplified BEMS that enables energy-saving control by measuring how customers are using energy. The status of energy use can be checked via the internet. Introduction of the service, additional installation, and customization can be easily done at relatively low cost.

*3 A general term for wireless communication technology that enables communication over distances of kilometers with low power consumption. Radio waves can be sent to the base station, which collects data, with low consumption of the device’s battery power. LPWA has been receiving attention as a technology particularly useful for the Internet of Things (IoT).

*4 Only during our service hours, except maintenance hours

*5 Customers are kindly requested to provide a meter, which sends electrical signals, for additional measurement.

■ The “ekul lite” service plan

(1) Starting date of the new service plan

April 1, 2019

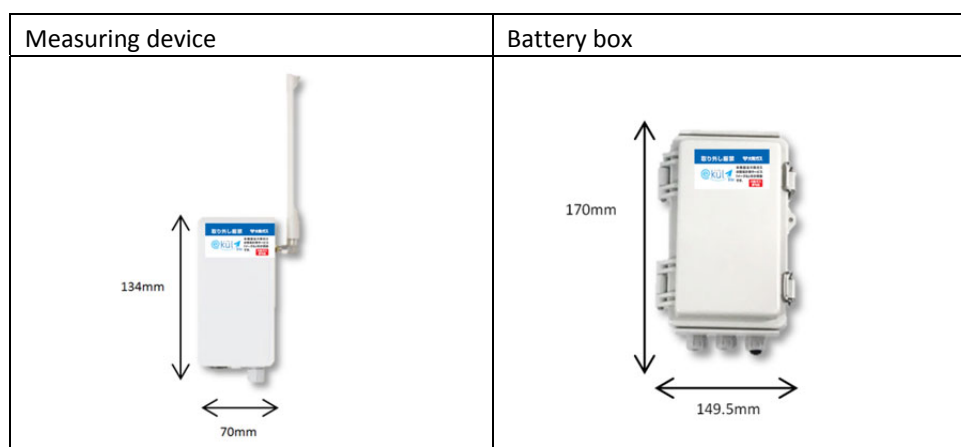
(2) Fees

- Standard service fee

One measuring device (One device can take measurements for two items.): 3,000 yen per month (excl. tax / an annual lump sum payment)

- Standard installation fee: 42,000 yen (excl. tax / one device installation / in the case of the initial lump sum payment)

(3) Measuring device image



(4) Logotype



■ Profile of Osaka Gas

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|---------------------|--|
| Company name | Osaka Gas Co., Ltd. |
| Home office address | 4-1-2 Hiranomachi, Chuo-ku, Osaka |
| Founded | April 1897 |
| Representative | President: Takehiro Honjo |
| Main business | Production and supply of gas, sale of LPG, generation and sale of electric power, etc. |

■ Profile of KCCS

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Company name | Kyocera Communication Systems Co., Ltd. |
| Home office address | 6 Takeda Tobadono-cho, Fushimi-ku, Kyoto |
| Founded | September 1995 |
| Representative | President: Yoshihito Kurose |
| Main business | ICT, communications engineering, environmental energy engineering, management consulting |

[Reference]

■ The “ekul” service

(1) Starting date of service

July 1, 2016

(2) Fees

• Standard service fee

- Measurement of one gas item and one electrical item: 5,000 yen per month (excl. tax / an annual lump sum payment)
- Additional item: additional 1,000 yen per month for every additional item (excl. tax / an annual lump sum payment / up to 20 items)

• Standard installation fee: 60,000 yen (excl. tax / in the case of the initial lump sum payment)

(3) Logotype



* Details of the services may be changed without prior notice.

* All product and company names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective owners.