

SONET executive overview

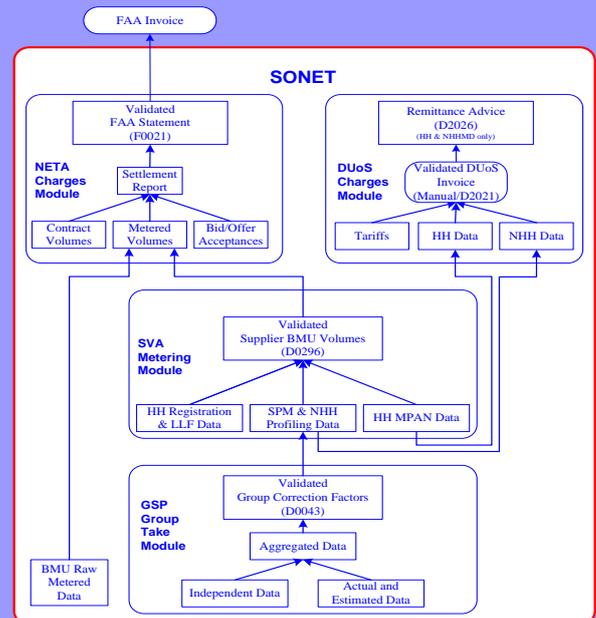
SONET is a software solution for managing the validation of electricity-related invoices and data-flows. It is fully BETTA-compliant, has an outstanding operational track-record and draws upon fifteen years of experience in settlements validation within the electricity industry.

The product is primarily used by supply businesses but can also be used by generation businesses in relation to NETA/BETTA charges.

Currently the product is used to validate in excess of 50% (by volume) of electricity purchases under the BETTA trading arrangements and associated Distribution Use of System invoices.

SONET provides an audited mechanism to:

- Identify and resolve metering data errors
- Validate NETA/BETTA charges
- Validate the FAA NETA/BETTA charges statement
- Identify central settlements processing error
- Identify DUoS invoicing errors and validate invoices for payment
- Generate electronic DUoS remittance advice notes.



Key Features

SONET receives and validates a wide range of industry data-flows from internal gateways. The system typically handles in excess of 1500 data files per day. Capturing and securing this data is vital. Special links are enabled to internal trading/notification systems.

To handle this volume of data the system incorporates sophisticated queue management features which maximise the efficiency of data delivery to the desk top.

Supervisors configure the system with user-definable validation tolerances to allow spurious errors to be ignored and users to focus on big picture issues.

An important area of the system is the DUoS module. This module caters for both automated load of electronic DUoS invoices (via the Electralink data flows) and manual entry of paper-based invoices. The system also produces the outgoing electronic remittance advice note.

Behind the scenes a detailed auditing process records the tolerance-setting and validation activities.

The product uses an Oracle 10g relational database making it compatible with most other company systems. The modular construction allows easy enhancement and sensible on-going maintenance costs.

SONET Value-Add

The core value of SONET comes from three sources:

- **Audited and demonstrable process** for validation of large value invoices;
- **Risk minimisation** through identification and elimination of metering and other central settlements errors (which in the past have amounted to many millions of pounds Sterling for individual companies);
- A **core validated corporate data-store** providing access for the whole business.

Why trust SONET?

The product is used by Scottish and Southern Energy, Scottish Power, EDF Energy and Npower as a cornerstone of their electricity settlements and DUoS validation processes.

St Clements has been building electricity settlements validation software for fifteen years.

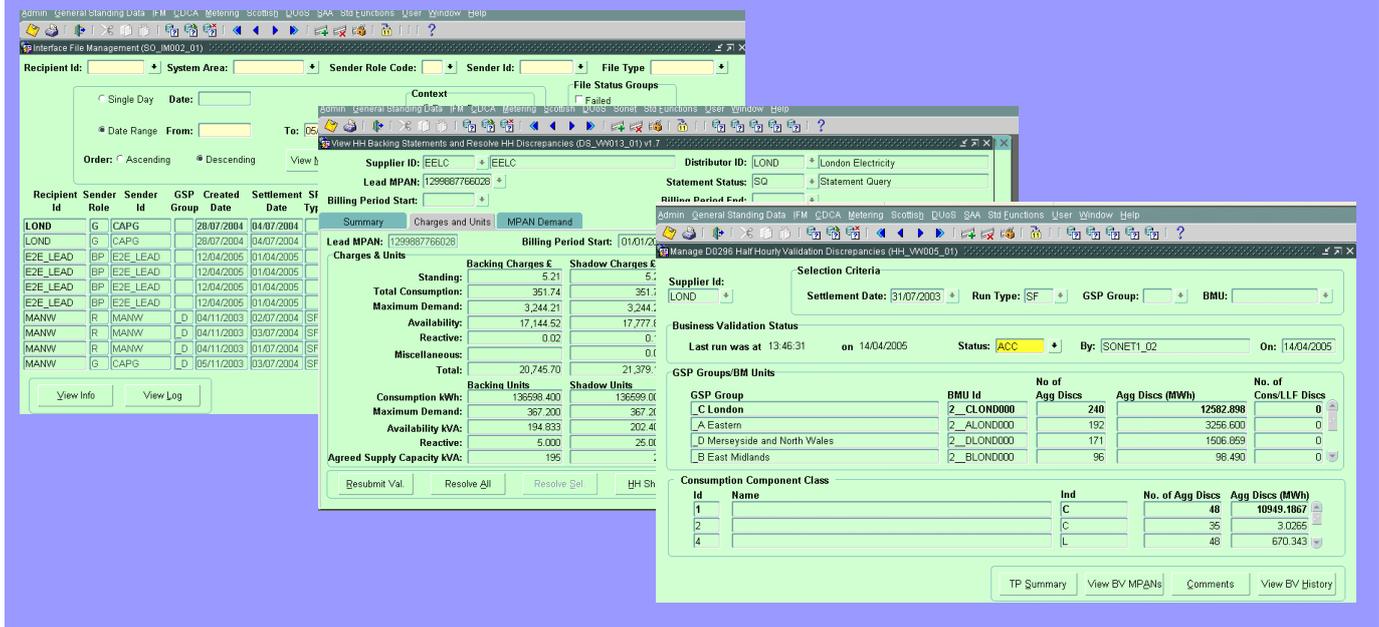
The software is robust and feature rich, whilst maintaining a focus on what the users actually need.

SONET Licensing

A single SONET licence provides usage across an unlimited number of BSC party IDs. A full support and maintenance package (including user group membership) is available.

Licensing is based upon supplier size with small annual licenses starting at £50k rising to £2m for large perpetual licenses.

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Reasons for switching to SONET

Risk Reduction and Confidence

SONET provides an audit-trail to demonstrate the processes of validation applied to invoices received. SONET works at both the top invoice level and the detailed metering level to provide confidence across the spectrum of electricity settlements data processed and invoices to be paid.

Proven Accuracy

The extensive testing and live usage of the system has proven its precision and accuracy. With over 50% of electricity purchases being validated by the software it is the **industry standard**.

Practical and easy to use

The product has been specified by the users of the system based upon many years real experience of electricity settlements and DUoS invoice validation.

Availability

All modules of the product are live and operational and being used today.

Product Quality

The product is reliable and robust, a claim that can be backed up by both the experience of the users and statistics from the Help Desk.

Licensing Options

The approach to licensing is flexible and matches the cost of the product to the value derived.

Future Cost Minimisation

Costs of maintaining the system are spread amongst the companies using the product, so minimising the maintenance costs. The product is also built upon modern, but standard, technology making enhancement possible without undue drama or cost.

Maintenance Commitment

St Clements and the existing customers are committed to maintaining the product in-line with industry change. St Clements has an excellent track-record of delivering the required enhancements on-time and to budget to meet the challenging industry change timescales.

Product Support

St Clements operates a frontline Help Desk supported by functional experts covering the modules of the system. The Help Desk provides advice, error correction facilities and technical installation assistance.

User Community

Users of St Clements products benefit from regular User Group meetings. Such meetings allow the development of best practice and provide a valuable forum for exchanging views.

Find out more

- Ask for a detailed brochure or talk to a product expert
- Arrange for a demonstration
- Take up references by talking to real users.