

To Users of PKI certificates
Re Renewing PKI certificates

Announcement: TenneT PKI certificates to be replaced

TenneT will issue you with a new PKI certificate in summer 2011. This newsletter is intended to inform you in good time as to the changes that these certificates will implement in 2011.

In order to maintain the balance on the high-voltage grid and guarantee the security of supply, it is extremely important to ensure that messages between TenneT and energy companies can be exchanged over the dedicated mail system (CPS). This is also one of TenneT's statutory duties. In essence, these messages contain information pertaining to issues such as predicted electricity production, grid load and electricity consumption. TenneT is responsible for supplying CPS users with access codes and message encryption algorithms as a means of guaranteeing the confidentiality of the information being sent. TenneT accomplishes this via the provision of PKI certificates such as the ones currently in your possession.

Certificate validity in 2011

The current certificates have a limited validity, i.e. until 5 October 2011. TenneT has started a project in order to ensure that communication between the relevant parties continues to be protected after this date. This project intends to replace all CPS-related certificates. At the same time, TenneT will increase the level of security of these certificates in order to comply with security requirements in the future.

What does this mean for you?

In the past, the replacement of these certificates did not always run smoothly. This was usually due to the fact that insufficient preparations were made. As it is important for you and TenneT that communication channels continue to function correctly, there are several measures that you can implement in order to reduce the risk of communication disruption. For example, you could be taking into consideration the available resources in your business that possess the knowledge required to successfully implement the new certificates in 2011. You could also start to consider the potential upgrades and updates required for your IT systems due to the increased level of security.

The road to replacement in summer 2011

At the moment, a call for tenders is underway to select a Certificate Service Provider (CSP). The CSP will take over a number of the services provided by TenneT in the PKI project. Technical and procedural requirements will be drawn up for this.

TenneT will use the period up until 1 May 2011 to make all necessary preparations for the transition to the new certificates. As of this date, we will gradually make the new certificates available to all market parties. All market parties must be using the new certificates by 5 October 2011 at the latest.

In the meantime, TenneT hopes that this newsletter has informed you in good time as to these developments. You will be informed as and when any new developments occur. If you still have any questions or comments on this issue, please contact our project leader, Mr J. Stikvoort, on +31 (0)26 373 3168 or via email at пки-cps@tennet.org.

This information can also be found on our website www.tennet.org by clicking on the Services option under the Customers tab.