

District heating in the future

The time for realising the potential of the district heating system of the future is now! Cutting-edge technology and increased digitalisation combined with the know-how and ambitions of experienced industry players will drive district heating to the next level.

At the very core of district heating has always been a collective effort for the common good. In the process of bringing district heating to the next level and fully unlocking its potential, this fundamental idea remains pivotal.

Taking technology further – together

The individual technologies required in the energy systems of the future already exist, but the challenge lies in combining the right technologies in the right partnerships and eco systems.

While many of the tools needed to create value from data are both available and – compared to basic metering for billing requirements – affordable today, they have the potential to be developed much further together with utilities and research institutes.

This will call for metering manufacturers to go beyond simply providing raw data to district heating utilities. The next natural step is active participation in turning all the information into knowledge and providing analytics that support actual decision making within the utilities.

The READY project and the 4DH Research Centre, mentioned previously, are both examples of collaborations among industry players for the purpose of exploring the value of data in the integrated energy system.

[Read more on smartcity-ready.eu](https://smartcity-ready.eu) and on 4dh.dk

The future starts today

Heating and cooling have finally found their way on to the European political agenda as research institutes – Heat Roadmap Europe in particular – along with manufacturers and consultants, have succeeded in explaining and proving the potential of the heating and cooling sector. As a result, they are set to play a key role in the European energy policy.

This is an important step – not least on the way to gathering the fragmented heating and cooling sector in Europe – but it is important to remember that this development is only just picking up speed.

The rapid digitalisation seen in a number of industries over the last few years will also take place in the utility industry and – once again – change the rules of the game. Increased digitalisation of heating systems, from technologies to workflows and analytics, will further improve not just the efficiency of this industry but also society in general, leading towards a sustainable energy infrastructure.

While utilities will be able to control some parts of this development, others will be out of their control. The key to successfully navigate under these new conditions will be to accept that flexibility and a willingness to adapt is the best approach to a future-proof heat supply.