He adds that by applying this new data technology, utilities can achieve energy efficiencies of between 5 and 10%. Importantly, the IMPONET platform can also be applied to collect energy data from sustainable (distributed) energy resources, and then help to control its efficient distribution. Utilities in other partner countries – Slovenia, Turkey and South Korea – are also set to take advantage of the new technology.

IMPONET has also hugely benefited INDRA, which hopes to secure €1m this year alone in contracts as a result of the project. “We also plan to hire between five and ten new analysts/programmers because of this,” adds Ortega. “These are conservative estimates and we plan to significantly enhance the business in the coming years.” INDRA is currently involved in talks with major utilities such as GDF Suez.

For consumers, the most obvious benefit is the ability to access hourly energy information and thus be able to consume more or less, depending on the price of energy. Consumer energy savings derived from the individual monitoring and benchmarking of energy vectors (electricity, gas, etc.) are estimated to be around 10%. Indeed, the project is paving the way for the implementation of real demand response programmes in the energy sector, and creating opportunities for the European energy ICT industry to become more competitive. “The sky is the limit,” says Ortega.