We Claim:

1. A template for aligning an optical sensor unit housing comprising an optical sensor of a retrofittable system for automatic reading *of a utility meter, characterized in that*

said template comprises a transparent carrier, and wherein

said transparent carrier comprises a cross-shaped marking indicating vertical and horizontal direction, adapted to be optically aligned with an indicator of a utility meter.

2. A template according to claim 1, wherein said template comprises a transparent antistatic foil adapted to adhere to a transparent meter housing part of said utility meter without the use of an adhesive.

3. A template according to any one of claims 1 or 2, wherein said template comprises perforations defining a central strip, which may be removed upon breaking said perforations, so as to leave an opening in said template.

4. A template according to claim 3, wherein said strip comprises the a central part of said cross-shaped marking, and at least the width of said strip is adapted to the width of the optical sensor unit housing so as to allow placement of said optical sensor unit housing in said opening and alignment of the optical sensor housing with the remainder of the cross-shaped marking.

5. A template according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said template comprises additional markings for compensating for a predetermined spacing between the optical sensors and an optical transmitter in said optical sensor unit housing.

6. A retrofittable system for automatic reading of a utility meter having a meter housing with at least one transparent meter housing part, said system comprising an optical sensor unit adapted to detect a signal from the consumption indication of said meter,

said optical sensor unit comprising a sensor unit housing adapted to be mounted on said transparent meter housing part of the utility meter housing using adhesive means,

wherein said optical sensor unit comprises an electrical cable

connection adapted to connect the sensor unit to a data processing unit remote from the sensor unit,

and wherein said processing unit comprises wireless transmission means adapted to transmit processed data from said data processing unit to a further remote device for further processing and/or display, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that said sensor unit housing comprises external markings adapted to, in conjunction with a template according to any one of claims 1-5 to be mounted temporarily on said transparent meter housing part, to facilitate the alignment with the consumption indicator of said utility meter.

7. A retrofittable system according to claim 6, wherein said markings comprises a visor cut-out.

8. A retrofittable system according to any one of claims 6 or 7, wherein the electrical cable has a length of more than 1 meter, preferably more than 3 meters and most preferred more than 5 meters.

9. A retrofittable system according to any one of claims 6 to 8, where said optical sensor unit comprises an optical transmitter, and where the markings on the sensor unit housing are adapted to take into account the spacing between optical sensor and the transmitter.

10. A retrofittable system according to any one of claims 6 to 9, wherein the housing comprises a detector for detecting whether the housing is attached to a surface.

11. A retrofittable system according to claim 10, wherein said detector comprises a switch.

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