

## Your Guide to Digital Certificates

**AESO**  
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SYSTEM OPERATOR  
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**YOUR CONTACT**  
for digital certificates:

**Digital Certificate  
Administrator**  
t: (403) 539-2570  
e: [cert.admin@aeso.ca](mailto:cert.admin@aeso.ca)

The Alberta Electric System Operator is Canada's first customer-focused exchange for electricity. As an independent system operator, the AESO leads the safe, reliable and economic operation and planning of Alberta's interconnected power system. The AESO also facilitates Alberta's hourly wholesale electricity market, which has more than 200 participants and between \$3 and \$5 billion in annual energy transactions, and is accountable for overall coordination of provincial load settlement.

### What are digital certificates?

Certain communication with the AESO, including the process to submit bids and offers, register/accept net settlement instructions (NSI), and retrieve statements is handled through the Internet. To ensure that the Internet-based communication between participants and the AESO is secure, participants must purchase a digital certificate.

A digital certificate is your assurance that the Web site you access is the secure AESO Energy Trading System (ETS). At the same time, the certificate allows the ETS to recognize authorized system users and allow access to appropriate information.

The AESO administers digital certificate issuance, renewal or revocation. Soltrus is the provider of the encrypted digital signature services. Questions about digital certificate requirements can be discussed with the contact listed on this sheet.

### How many digital certificates will my company need?

It is up to each company to determine how many digital certificates it will require. For security reasons on the market side with the AESO and for audit purposes, the AESO recommends one certificate per user as individual digital certificates can be set up with different access levels.

The user access levels are authorized by your organization's main contact. The main contact for your organization can be found on the participant list, located at [aeso.ca](http://aeso.ca) (Market\Participant Information\Participant List).

Participants are responsible for maintaining internal security relating to digital certificates. Be aware that certificates can be installed or shared on computers outside of the organization, so individuals who leave your company may still have access to your confidential information. Contact the AESO if you need to cancel a digital certificate or if you require changes to security access levels.

### **How do I install a digital certificate?**

Instructions on applying for a digital certificate are included in a letter sent to all new participants. Details on installing digital certificates are found in the participant's manual located at [aeso.ca](http://aeso.ca) (Market\Participant Information\Participant Manual), or by request, from the contact listed on this sheet.

Please note you must use the same browser, on the same computer, to enroll and install your digital certificate. Once the AESO verifies your enrollment information and grants your request, you will receive an e-mail from Soltrus with instructions on how to "Pick Up and Install your digital ID."

The AESO recommends you save the digital certificate to a floppy disk or network drive after the digital certificate is installed. If the digital certificate is lost or destroyed, there will be a replacement fee of \$100.

### **Do I have the appropriate hardware/software requirements?**

#### **Minimum Software Requirements:**

- Operating Systems -Windows 98, NT, 2000, or XP
- Browsers (128 bit version)
- Netscape 7.1 or higher
- Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.5 or higher
- Download Java plug-in version 1.3, available from the AESO Web site

#### **Minimum Hardware Requirements:**

- 233 MHz Pentium PC
- 64 Mb of memory
- 20 Mb free hard disk space (does not include the browser)
- 1024 X 768 resolution
- 256 colours

#### **Access Requirements**

- Ports 80 (HTTP) and 443 (HTTPS) are required to be open on the clients firewall
- The application does not support Microsoft Proxy Server

### **How much do they cost?**

Digital certificates cost \$100 each, plus GST, per year. The cost, which will appear on your statement, reflects the number of certificates your company has installed. For security integrity, certificates require renewal on the anniversary date of the installation. Soltrus will automatically notify you one month prior to the annual renewal date.

*This information is intended to provide a brief overview of requirements and answers for frequently asked questions. Contact the AESO if you have any comments or questions.*