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By: Scott Stein

Tenrehte Technologies Picowatt Wi-Fi smart plugs

Then: "Tenrehte Technologies has a grassroots vision for the smart grid. Instead of relying on a utility-installed smart meter to help consumers ratchet down their electricity bills, the Rochester, N.Y.-based start-up is building Wi-Fi-enabled smart plugs. A few strategically placed smart plugs, called a Picowatt, will provide many of the benefits promised to consumers by the smart grid, including a real-time read-out of electricity usage and the ability to control appliances from a central point." [Read the rest of our CES 2010 coverage.](#)

Now: Consumers still can't get their hands on these smart plugs, although they've apparently been available to business customers.

Photo credit: Martin LaMonica/CNET

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