

**Q&A Recording of:**  
**OUC/UCF – Meter Data Science Competition – Project Kick-Off & Orientation**  
**September 2, 2020 (via WebEx)**

*\*\*the following documents questions submitted via Q&A/Chat during the WebEx session\*\**

Q – Do you provide the **presentation** slides to attendees after the event is over?

*A – Yes. A pdf copy of the presentation will be shared with the UCF Professors/Liaisons by 9/3/20 and will subsequently be distributed out to all students who were invited.*

Q - Is **domain knowledge** required to master this competition? Will the team be given with enough information regarding the data and its attributes?

*A – Domain knowledge is not required for mastery. Beyond the data context and attributes shared in today's presentation, all teams will also get a data catalog (on or before 9/16/20, following use case assignments) and will have access to OUC SME's (through UCF Liaisons) for questions through at least January 8, 2021.*

Q - Are all of the **Meter IDs** referring to smart meters?

*A - ~99.9% of OUC's electric meters are smart meters (AMI); ~98% of OUC's water meters are smart meters (AMI/AMR).*

Q - Is this **data available** in a PostgreSQL DB that we'll have access to? Will we be able to work with the data on a computer or will we need a cloud platform?

*A – The logistics/format of the data to be shared for this project is currently a work-in-progress. It will likely be either access to a clone/copy of the OUC data in the cloud (Snowflake), or an extract (i.e. CSV) that would be shared/ftp'd to UCF. A decision on this will be reached before use case assignments, and will be communicated out as soon as possible.*

Q - Do the teams choose the use case to work on? How will the **use case assignments** be done?

*A – No. To ensure there are an even number of teams assigned to each use case, UCF Professor(s)/Liaison(s) will be assigning out each of the two use cases to the teams.*

Q – Can teams provide their '**preferred use case**' and then you all make the executive decision?

*A – Feel free to submit your preference along with the team member names, but at this time, there is no guarantee we will be able to accommodate (see previous question/answer).*

Q - What is the **minimum/maximum number of students** allowable for each team?

*A – Minimum of (2) students; maximum of (4) students.*

Q - How do I know **who are the attendees** of this call so I can form teams? I cannot see any participants but myself. How can we form **cross-functional teams**?

*A – The UCF liaisons may be able to send out a list of the graduate students who were invited. In lieu of being able to do that, faculty members can certainly assist in the formulation of teams (reach out to your UCF Liaison(s) as necessary for this).*

Q - What are the **cross functional areas present** in this meeting? I know other MSDA (Data Analytics) students are here but don't know which other programs could be here.

*A – Please see answer to previous question. Additionally, based on the students who responded during the session, most are in either the MSDA (Data Analytics) or Ph.D. (Big Data Analytics) programs.*

Q - Can we use any **extra (external) data** or we have to use provided data for analysis?

*A – External data is permissible so long as it is publicly available, free of charge and from a 'trusted source'. However, while permissible, caution should be exercised with the use of external data sources as to an extent, the simplicity of your model will be a consideration for OUC in scoring, because it further enables OUC's ability to operationalize the solution after the project is complete.*

Q - So for case #2, you mentioned there are 'advanced' forms of theft. Do you have a **data set with confirmed cases** of 'advanced' theft, not just theft?

*A – Yes. As part of the data share on 9/16/20, OUC will provide confirmed/known cases of both EV (use case #1) and advanced theft (use case #2) for your reference.*

Q - What is the **duration of this competition**?

*A – Please reference the milestones & timeline in the presentation. At the highest level, the project will officially start on 9/16/20, with final submissions due on 2/1/21, followed by presentations to OUC later in February.*

Q – Is the competition **exclusive to UCF**?

*A – Yes.*

Q – Has a **competition like this been offered before**?

*A – While this is the first time OUC has been involved, UCF has done this type of competition previously, in partnership with other companies including Addition Financial and CFE.*

Q – Will the teams be provided with OUC **Subject Matter Experts (SME's)** as a point of contact during the competition?

*A – Yes. Please reference the slide within the presentation for the various points-of-contact or liaisons. On the OUC side, those points-of-contact can bring in others from the organization as needed to address questions. At this time, it is anticipated that student questions regarding the project will no longer be accepted after 1/8/21.*

Q – What questions is OUC **hoping to answer** from this data?

*A – Please reference the slides pertaining to the overview/basics as well as each use case within the presentation.*

Q - How much **data cleaning** should we expect?

*A – Minimal data cleaning is anticipated for this project.*

Q – **How big are the datasets** for the competition?

*A – The answer depends largely on the duration of history OUC provides. However, we anticipate at least a few terabytes of data will be shared.*

Q – What do you mean by **'EV penetration'**?

*A – This would be the ratio of EVs as compared to other vehicles by any particular geographic area, demographic, etc.*

Q – Are we looking at homes with **EV installations** or commercial buildings with charging stations?  
A – *Both. However, the primary focus will likely be for residential, as EV identification via usage data for commercial installations will be far more difficult, if even possible at all.*

Q – Are there data associated with **EV sales** available?  
A – *OUC will not be providing EV sales data. Please reference earlier question (and answer) regarding permissible external data sets and considerations as such.*

Q – Will there be any **economic data** available on top of all the metering data?  
A – *OUC will not be providing economic data. Please reference earlier question (and answer) regarding permissible external data sets and considerations as such.*

Q – In general, is there a way to **learn more about the projects** before the deadline for choosing teams?  
A – *The information provided within the presentation and this Q&A document should be sufficient for teammate selections. Once use case assignments are made, teams can start submitting questions via the liaison(s). Additionally, we will have a monthly virtual, open session for all teams to ask questions of the OUC team.*

Q – Since the competition spans several months in duration, will there be any meet-ups or **checkpoints** in between for teams?  
A – *Yes. Your UCF liaison(s) will be available to answer or pass questions on to OUC prior to the 1/8/20 cut-off date. Additionally, we will have a monthly virtual, open session for all teams to ask questions of the OUC team.*

Q – Do we have to provide **presentations and reports** on our findings at the end?  
A – *Yes. This is actually a critical component of the competition. It is important for students to not just build an appropriate model or solution for the use case, but to also be able to succinctly articulate the solution and justifications to OUC in layman's terms. This component of the competition will be a worthy exercise for you in future career endeavors, whereby 'story-telling' with data will be invaluable.*

Q – What are the project result **evaluation criteria** used by OUC to pick the winner of the competition?  
A – *Those specific criteria will be documented and shared to participating students by the end of September, if not before. In the meantime, reference the slides pertaining to the competition overview/basics as well as desired outcomes for each use case within the presentation.*

Q – How long will teams have to share their findings via **presentation** in February?  
A – *There will be a 15-minute window for each team to present their findings, justifications, solution etc. to OUC following final submission on 2/1/21.*

#### General Items/Questions Regarding **Tools**:

- *Please reference presentation slide that shows the core suite of permissible tools.*
- *Machine learning and other open source tools available in Python are permissible.*
- *Tableau is the preferred, approved tool for visualizations on this project.*
- *Following use case assignments, if your team would like to propose use of an additional tool, those questions must be submitted to OUC through your UCF liaison(s) for review and approval before proceeding.*