

#### **SolarInnovate Energy Solutions**

# Silicon Carbide for Photovoltaic Inverters





#### **Overview**

SiC is used in power electronics devices, like inverters, which deliver energy from photovoltaic (PV) arrays to the electric grid, and other applications, like heat exchangers in concentrating solar power (CSP) plants and electric vehicles. Can silicon carbide transform solar power management?

One materials technology poised to transform solar power management is silicon carbide (SiC). Solar manufacturers use this wonder material to build highly efficient and robust solar inverter systems that turn DC power from photovoltaic (PV) cells into household and business AC power.

Are silicon carbide inverters the foundation of next-generation highperformance converters?

Silicon carbide (SiC) devices can break through the technical limitations of silicon (Si) devices. Thus, SiC devices are considered as the foundations of next-generation high-performance converters. Aimed at the photovoltaic (PV) power system, this study surveys state-of-the-art of PV inverters.

Can silicon carbide improve the performance of PV inverters?

Nowadays, silicon (Si)-based devices, including Si insulated-gate bipolar transistor (IGBT) and Si diode, are commonly used in inverters. However, over the past four decades, the performance of Si devices has reached its boundary . Recently, silicon carbide (SiC)-based devices are used to improve the performance of PV inverters .

What is silicon carbide (SiC)?

Silicon Carbide (SiC) is rapidly transforming solar energy technology by offering superior efficiency, reliability, and sustainability for modern photovoltaic (PV) systems. With increasing global demand for cleaner and renewable energy, SiC technology has emerged as a game-changer, particularly in the design of solar inverters and power modules.

What are SiC-based devices used to improve PV inverter performance?



Recently, silicon carbide (SiC)-based devices are used to improve the performance of PV inverters . The prices of SiC diode and metal-oxide-semiconductor field-effect transistor (MOSFETs) decrease by 10% per year. These SiC devices are replacing Si devices for PV inverter applications.

What is a sic PV inverter?

SiC devices are the preferred devices to replace Si devices in these converters. Some demonstrations of SiC PV inverters have revealed that the application of SiC devices is a double-edged sword. Many technical challenges should be overcome to benefit from the excellent performances of SiC device.



#### Silicon Carbide for Photovoltaic Inverters

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APPLICATION SCENARIOS



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