

SolarInnovate Energy Solutions

What communication method is used for photovoltaic inverter collection



Overview

Many solar inverters are equipped with wired communications such as RS485, Ethernet, or CAN bus. What communication technologies are used for distributed solar PV system integration?

Distributed solar PV systems generally are connected to HAN and NAN/FAN network, which is the so-called “last-mile” communication network. The following sections give an overview of existing and widespread communication technologies used for distributed solar PV system integration.

What communication methods do micro inverters use?

This ensures that the inverter’s operation can be displayed on the monitoring and maintenance platform. The mainstream micro inverter manufacturers in the global market primarily transmit and control data through communication methods such as WiFi, PLC, RS485, Sub-1G, and Zigbee. Below is an overview of each brand’s communication methods:

How does an inverter communicate with a monitoring platform?

The communication between the inverter and the monitoring platform relies on a communication protocol in terms of software and mainly uses a monitoring stick module as a medium or bridge for data transmission and reception in terms of hardware. This ensures that the inverter’s operation can be displayed on the monitoring and maintenance platform.

Can a PV inverter communicate with a SCADA system?

In Japan, an existing project tries to develop PV inverters which can communicate with the SCADA system. The role of communication and control system in this project includes PV output control, reactive power control and collecting sales data. The replies from USA summarized the experiences from a number of existing PV projects.

Which power line communication options are implemented in different solar installations?

Figure 1 shows typical power line communication options implemented in different solar installations. These installations can be divided into communication on DC lines (red) and communication on AC lines (blue).

Are communication and control systems needed for distributed solar PV systems?

The survey results show that deployment of communication and control systems for distributed PV systems is increasing. The public awareness on the communication and control of grid-connected solar PV systems are raising. However the actual development of communication and control system for distributed solar PV systems are still in the early stage.

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