

Solar inverter classification and characteristics





Overview

What are the different types of solar inverters?

Each type of solar inverter has its unique features and applications, making the choice of inverter a critical decision in the design of a solar energy system. In this guide, we'll explore the various types of solar inverters, including string inverters, central inverters, microinverters, power optimizers, and hybrid inverters.

What is a solar inverter?

A solar inverter (or photovoltaic inverter) is an electronic device that is indispensable in any photovoltaic solar energy system. Its main function is to convert the direct current (DC) produced by the modules or solar panels into alternating current (AC) which is the type of energy used by most electrical equipment and the conventional power grid.

How are inverters classified?

Inverters are classified based on their size, mode of operation, or configuration topology. Considering the classification based on the mode of operation, inverters can be classified into three broad categories: Inverter classification according to Interconnection types is discussed in EME 812 (11.4. Grid connection and role of inverters).

How to choose a solar inverter?

Check the rated power of the inverter against the total power of the solar panels installed. In on-grid systems, the inverter is usually sized a little below or close to the power of the modules (for example, a system with 5 kW of boards can use a 5 kW or 4.6 kW inverter, as small losses can occur).



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