

Microgrids in an era of social disruption

Remote commissioning, monitoring, and control tools to adapt to the current health crisis





Speaker



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1. Company overview

- 2. Covid-19 impact on the sector
- 3. Remote commissioning
- 4. Autonomous control
- 5. Monitoring platform
- 6. Use-cases & references
- 7. Questions

Elum Energy footprint



- Offices in Paris, Casablanca and Cape Town
- Expertise in Monitoring & Control systems for microgrids, with over 100 sites already equipped in more than 40 countries
- High-end hardware integration & reliable software development from energy control experts in France
- Strong clients & partners



Our technology applications

Reliable energy monitoring & control solutions for solar & energy efficiency industries.



Power Plants

Telecom

Industry

ePowerControl - Plug & play, reliable and compatible controllers



High-end hardware integration & reliable software development from energy control experts

An **outstanding service level** from remote assistance to local commissioning

Compatibility - PV power plants

ePowerControl / ePowerMonitor technologies are **compatible with following equipment:**



Non-comprehensive list - contact@elum-energy.com to know if your equipment is compatible

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Covid19 impact on the solar sector

COVID19 (lockdowns) had a severe impact on manufacturing & supply lead times of equipment and materials used in the construction of solar plants worldwide over Q2 2020.

It has caused delays in almost all project phases :

- Plant commercial operations
- Equipment procurement timeline
- Site commissioning

AND it has created new constraints in an already challenging work environment with multiple generation units, remote locations, reliability requirements ...



Manage safe commissioning & operations with Elum controller

In this new context, what are the main challenges that EPCs need to overcome?

- 1. **Procurement :** Manage project delivery timeline due to equipment delivery delays
- 2. Commissioning : Ensure proper site commissioning with international travel restrictions
- **3. Operation :** Operate sites with local travel restriction and lockdowns
- 4. Maintenance : maintain service quality and troubleshooting / assistance capabilities

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Remote commissioning - How it can help?



Reducing the number of interactions of people on-site is a priority to all companies due to **social distancing measures**.

Remote commissioning allows you to install the site control system **without having the requirement to ensure on-site travel of an expert** from the technology provider.

Elum technology helps the site operator successfully commission a site quickly with less workforce involved :

- Guided local configuration interface
- Remote support from expert for troubleshooting
- Remote assistance through remote control of site controller

Remote commissioning - How does it work in practice ?

Start/Stop solar control								
STOP ON CONTROL STATUS								
Configure solar control								
Application								
Backup (PV + Genset + Grid)								
Grid meter								
Grid Meter - Power Meter Mock								
Load meter								
Load Meter - Power Meter Mock								
Genset list								
Minimum loading								
30								
Genset measurement								
Genset - Genset 🔹 400								

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Once site equipments have been wired and configured, **Elum Energy local configuration interface enables you to autonomously commission your plant(s)** and to edit locally your equipments parameters such as PV inverters, BESS, Gensets, meters...

It works with many operating mode:

Registre

AC Frequency/Phase1 AC Frequency/Phase2 AC Frequency/Phase3

- grid-tied
- off-grid

-	mixed

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Remote commissioning of a Solar powered resort in the Bahamas



Caribbean Resort

Bahamas Island - Exuma PV - 74 kWp Gensets - 108 kVA Storage - 80 kWh

Power system complexity : several gensets have to be controlled independently in a system with SMA Sunny Island ESS inverters.

COVID19 has brought necessity of full remote commissioning, which has been a success.

- 1. EPC Onsite engineers have autonomously commissioned system communication
- 2. Elum technical team has remotely conducted BESS / genset commissioning tests

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Autonomous control - How does it help?



Power facilities have to be prepared & resilient to almost all outcomes, therefore reliable & fully autonomous controllers are required to ensure continuous and safe operations, without any presence onsite required. Examples are :

- Internet connectivity loss : fully autonomous controller with ability to store plant data for days during connectivity outages
- **Grid power supply loss** : automated curtailment of inverter power output when switching to another power source (genset / BESS)
- **Main power source loss** : PV inverter safe mode through direct com.
- **Equipment communication loss** : automated decoupling of PV plant through relay control

Autonomous control - How does it work?



ePowerControl controller provides autonomous operation

- Solar energy production during an outage while maintaining the gensets minimum loading
- Export limitation to the grid
- Site data & alarms collection
- BESS state of charge management

And many more...

Solar diesel integration on a mall in South Africa



5 star Superspar Mall

South Africa PV - 360 kWp Gensets - 559 kVA

Load shedding may involve main power source loss triggering site backup gensets. ePowerControl SD provides safe and autonomous solar integration.

Embedded control system + dedicated UPS ensure resilient PV curtailment during main power source / grid losses protecting diesel gensets at all times.

Alongside with the ATS, ePowerControl brings serenity to the EPC during load shedding period, **reducing site visits & onsite interactions with the system**

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ePowerMonitor - How it can help?



During local travel restriction / lockdown periods, remote site monitoring and control allows for safe and efficient supervision of geographically spread assets, without moving from the control room.

- Site monitoring: keep track on plant behaviour through live data feed with graphs and KPIs for each plant equipment
- Site analysis: analyse and report site performance through historical data without moving from your desk
- Portfolio overview: GIS menu with site status to quickly identify bottlenecks
- **Anomaly detection**: Configure and manage alarms to remotely detect equipment failures and receive automated notification for critical issues requiring onsite intervention

ePowerMonitor - How does it works ?



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Solar diesel integration control for UN facility in Gambia









Medical Research Center

Gambia PV - 501 kWp Gensets - 6*450 kVA

Context: In this complicated retrofit project, 7 new PV plants were added to the existing 2 PV + Diesel plant (6 DGs). ePowerControlt HFS allows there to maximize PV penetration and protect gensets during grid blackouts.

ePowerMonitor is used by the EPC company to reduce site visits :

- Monitor inverter by inverter state to optimize maintenance visits
- Supervise plant by plant (on each building roof) to identify performance ratio bottlenecks
- Alert the operation team in case of critical alarm occurrence

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Control, monitor & optimize microgrids

Thank you for your attention, contact us for any question





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