

Press release

Sputnik's new data logger, MaxWeb xp, with integrated network management

Biel, 04 February 2010. In December, Sputnik Engineering AG launched the web-based data logger MaxWeb xp. Like its predecessor MaxWeb, MaxWeb xp also records power measurement values, yield data and events in photovoltaic plants and transmits them automatically to the SolarMax web portal. In addition, the data logger also monitors the plant's operation for faults and sends fault signals to as many as three recipients by e-mail or SMS. The set-up wizard helps you to configure your MaxWeb xp.

Remote control for network management

MaxWeb meets the requirements of the Renewable Energy Sources Act (EEG) and the guideline published by the German Association of Energy and Water Industries, "Generating Plants Connected with the Medium-Voltage Network", which have been in force in Germany since 2009. They demand that grid operators be enabled to reduce the effective output of large-scale PV plants. On the grid in Germany, access to the relevant PV plants is usually provided by wireless control signals. Since January 2009, the new requirements apply to all PV plants with a connected capacity greater than 100 kW or with a grid contact point to the medium-voltage grid.

The addition of the MaxRemote option to the expansion port integrated into the MaxWeb xp makes additional, external interface converters unnecessary. An easily navigable menu permits the plant operator to give the signal from the wireless remote control receiver unrestricted access to the necessary inverter control commands. The configuration of the command execution on MaxWeb xp is protected by a password and is also possible on the Internet.

In the words of Michel Ryser, the assistant head of development at Sputnik Engineering in Biel, "The grid operator specifies an effective output reference value which the connected plant must respond to within 60 seconds." First the energy suppliers send a wireless signal to a wireless receiver. The receiver then sends via relays digital signals which the MaxWeb xp data logger interprets and sends to all connected inverter.

Ryser says, "Usually the grid operator signals four different output levels." In relation to the rated capacity of the solar plant that means 100 percent, 60 percent, 30 percent and 0 percent. While 100 percent means no change in output, when output is set to 0 percent, the plant shuts down. In response to the 30 or 60 percent command, of course, MaxRemote reduces plant output correspondingly. Unlike the inverters of many other makers, SolarMax inverters do not need an additional interface converter. This reduces the amount of work needed and cuts costs.

The data logger MaxWeb xp signals the feed-output back to the grid operator via the SolarMax web portal or by e-mail. All the steps are stored and recorded so that the plant operator can trace the relevant events.

MaxRemote also makes it possible to meet the grid operator's future requirements such as transmitting commands for the input of reactive power to the connected inverters.

About Sputnik Engineering AG

Sputnik Engineering AG was founded in 1991. Since then it has focused its activities exclusively on the development, sales and maintenance of inverters for grid-connected photovoltaic systems. With the SolarMax series, the company – headquartered in Biel, Switzerland – offers a highly diverse product range of string inverters for single family houses and central inverters for solar power plants. Thanks to its many years of experience and constant optimisation of its products, Sputnik has

developed devices distinguished by their state-of-the-art technology, high quality, reliability, maximum yields and very good value for the money. Sputnik Engineering currently has around 240 employees at its Swiss headquarters as well in its subsidiaries in Neuhausen (Germany), Madrid (Spain) and Milan (Italy), and Paris (France).



Editor

Sputnik Engineering AG
Höheweg 85
CH – 2502 Biel
Switzerland
Tel.: +41 (0) 32 346 5600
Fax. +41 (0) 32 346 5609
info@solarmax.com
www.solarmax.com

Media Contact

Press Agency Krampitz
Dillenburger Straße 85
D – 51105 Cologne
Germany
Tel. +49 (0) 221 91249949
Fax +49 (0) 221 91249948
info@pr-krampitz.de

Print free of charge. Voucher copy requested to the media contact. If you have any further inquiries, we would be glad to assist you.