

SolAmitec – PV monitoring for professionals

While working as a consultant for developers of grid tied PV fields, I found that the existing portals and monitoring services fell short of fulfilling my needs for trouble shooting PV system problems.

It is not enough to view hourly power and energy production while receiving alarms from inverters when trouble hits. A PV array can be under-producing even as all seems normal and no alarms are issued. I require an application that will work at constantly applying comparison logic to various system produced data in order to ascertain that the system is producing at its best.

Continuous monitoring of Performance Ratio, STC calculated PR (temperature corrected), inverter comparison, string comparison, normalized energy to power installed and just about any other comparison can be made and alarms set when chosen thresholds are reached.

More important than the alarming capabilities is the ability to quickly and efficiently download any set of parameters from any time period in one spread sheet file. Without this capability it is not possible to trouble shoot a system effectively.

The SolAmitec monitoring system is the best I have come across for daily monitoring and system analysis. For this reason we have chosen the system for the ongoing research of the IEA-PVPS Task 13, the study of PV system reliability and efficiency.