
Postgraduate Certificate in Sustainable Microgrid Management

*** Microgrid Design and Configuration**

Microgrid Design and Configuration: Key Terms and Vocabulary

Microgrids are small-scale electrical grids that can operate independently or connected to the main power grid. They are critical to the future of sustainable energy management due to their ability to provide reliable, high-quality power while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This explanation covers key terms and vocabulary related to microgrid design and configuration in the context of the Postgraduate Certificate in Sustainable Microgrid Management.

1. Microgrid

A microgrid is a localized group of electricity sources and loads that normally operates connected to the traditional grid, but can also operate autonomously. It can contain various distributed energy resources (DERs), such as solar panels, wind turbines, energy storage systems, and backup generators.

2. Distributed Energy Resources (DERs)

DERs are small-scale power generation and storage technologies located close to where the electricity is consumed. Examples include rooftop solar panels, wind turbines, fuel cells, and energy storage systems. DERs can provide various services to the grid, such as voltage support, frequency regulation, and power quality improvement.

3. Grid-forming and Grid-following Controls

Grid-forming controls allow a DER to operate as the "island" grid's central source of power during autonomous operation. Grid-following controls, on the other hand, require a central source of power to operate and are typically used for inverter-based DERs connected to the main grid.

4. *Microgrid *Configuration

Microgrid configuration refers to the arrangement of DERs, loads, and other components within a microgrid. Common configurations include radial, loop, and mesh topologies. The configuration chosen depends on factors such as the size and location of the microgrid, the types of DERs available, and the desired level of redundancy and reliability.

5. *Microgrid *Control Systems

Microgrid control systems manage the operation of the microgrid, ensuring that the DERs and loads are balanced and that the quality of the power is maintained. Common control strategies include centralized, distributed, and hybrid control architectures.

6. Centralized Control

Centralized control involves a single controller managing the operation of the microgrid. This approach is simple and easy to implement but can be less flexible and reliable than other control strategies.

7. Distributed Control

Distributed control involves multiple controllers, each managing a subset of the microgrid's DERs and loads. This approach is more flexible and reliable than centralized control but can be more complex to implement.

8. Hybrid Control

Hybrid control involves a combination of centralized and distributed control strategies. This approach can provide the benefits of both centralized and distributed control while minimizing their respective drawbacks.

9. *Microgrid *Protection Systems

Microgrid protection systems ensure the safety and reliability of the microgrid during normal and abnormal operating conditions. Protection systems typically include overcurrent protection, voltage and frequency protection, and fault detection and isolation.

10. Overcurrent Protection

Overcurrent protection involves detecting and isolating electrical faults caused by excessive current flow. Common overcurrent protection devices include fuses and circuit breakers.

11. Voltage and Frequency Protection

Voltage and frequency protection involves detecting and isolating electrical faults caused by abnormal voltage or frequency levels. Common voltage and frequency protection devices include voltage and frequency relays.

12. Fault Detection and Isolation

Fault detection and isolation involves identifying and isolating electrical faults within the microgrid. Common fault detection and isolation techniques include distance protection, differential protection, and backup protection.

13. *Microgrid *Communication Systems

Microgrid communication systems enable the exchange of information between the various components of the microgrid, including DERs, loads, and control and protection systems. Communication systems can be wired or wireless and can use various protocols, such as Modbus, DNP3, and IEC 61850.

14. Modbus

Modbus is a serial communication protocol used for transmitting data between industrial devices. It is a simple and widely used protocol that can be implemented using various physical layers, such as RS-232, RS-485, and Ethernet.

15. DNP3

DNP3 is a client-server communication protocol used for transmitting data between SCADA systems and remote