

Netherlands microgrid operation

T1 - Implementation of the Bronsbergen microgrid using FACDS

M3 - Conference contribution

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Microgrids combine cost-efficient and ecologically friendly regenerative energy sources with the reliability of standby power generator sets.

The world is moving toward a new era of energy generation and consumption. Most corporations and organizations have environmental initiatives in place to reduce their carbon footprint. Governments are moving in the same direction, with green incentives and stringent federal, regional and local regulations. The shift towards renewable energy sources such as solar, wind and biogas--essential components in a microgrid--will only continue to grow.

There are many things that can interrupt the flow of power. No energy source is 100% reliable and foolproof. Whether it's caused by a storm or natural disaster, outages can strike at any time. Smart contingency plans must be in place when a power grid goes down, or when a generator set runs out of fuel. It pays to have options available locally--such as a microgrid--to generate power. Having diverse power options at your command are also advantageous if primary energy costs or peak demand rates rise dramatically. With a mix of energy sources available, you can choose a more costeffective solution if the price of diesel fuel or natural gas gets too high.

Concerns about power quality in the grid have led to an increased demand for new solutions. And for good reason. Major regional blackouts can cause billions of dollars in economic losses. Rolling blackouts are becoming more common. Many power grids, such as in North America, are outdated as investments in this infrastructure have been lacking. However, as more variable sources (such as windmills) are added to these grids, the risk of instability grows. As the coal industry slows down, traditional plants that keep electricity flowing are disappearing. With a microgrid on site, an energy user can avoid power interruptions by seamlessly switching over to a diverse mix of alternative energy sources that don't rely on the grid.

When evaluating a potential microgrid project, it is important to understand its commonly used power



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generation technologies and applications.

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