

# Micro-grid powered by photovoltaic and micro turbine

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**Abstract.** In this paper, we propose to study the possibility of using a photovoltaic system combined with a high speed micro-turbine. This hybrid system can work as stand-alone system or grid connected system as it will be a part of a micro-grid. Initially, we propose simple dynamic models of photovoltaic and micro turbine systems. Then, we carry out a comparison between simulations and measurements of the two systems. At last, simulation results show the effectiveness of the suggested hybrid system.

## Key words

Micro-grid, hybrid system, photovoltaic, micro-turbine, distributed generation, simulation.

## 1. Introduction

The production of photovoltaic system can vary slowly (day-night cycle and season change) and quickly because of weather conditions such as the passage of clouds. The power fluctuation might cause problems of power quality. Moreover a grid connected photovoltaic system is considered as a negative load by the grid because of its uncontrollable characteristic. To reduce these problems, we can integrate a storage system which allows the energy management [1]. The hybrid system is another interesting solution. It is using two or more renewable energy sources such as wind and/or solar and it becomes more widely used [2]. The hybrid system with at least one controllable source such as diesel generator or micro turbine can solve this problem. This distributed generator is interesting because, it allows high efficiency with cogeneration system, low emission and fuel flexibility.

This paper presents a dynamic-simulation study of a photovoltaic system and a micro turbine operating within a multi-machine network [1]. Each generator can be connected via a DC bus. Then, a single static converter is connecting this DC bus to the grid. In this work, we choose to connect it to the AC bus because the expansion of system is not limited by the rated power of the static

converter. Figure 1 shows the studied hybrid system: a 17,3kWp photovoltaic system associated to a 28kW Capstone micro-turbine. This PV-system is installed in the north of France at the L2EP-ENSAM of Lille since December 2004. It can work as a stand-alone system or a grid connected system as it will be a part of a micro-grid [1],[2]. A 28kW MTG will be settled in April 2006.

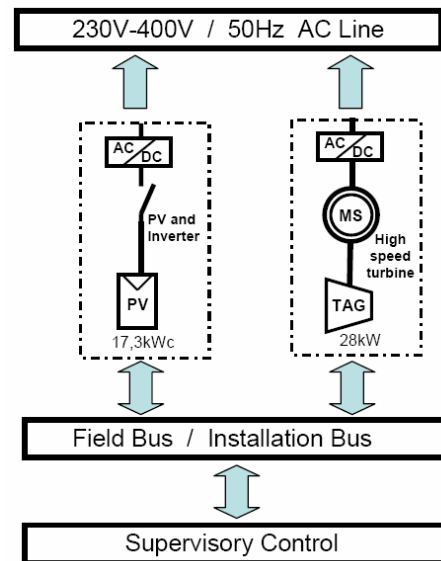


Figure 1. PV/MTG micro-grid control scheme.

## 2. Photovoltaic system modelling

### A. Description of the PV system

The photovoltaic studied system, presented in figure 2, consists of 108 modules BP solar 3160 with power of 160Wp each. These modules are connected to a 3-phase grid via six inverters Fronius IG30 (one inverter connects 2 branches of 8 modules in parallel). In the first year of electric production, this 17,3kWp PV-system generated 13600kWh as shown in figure 3.

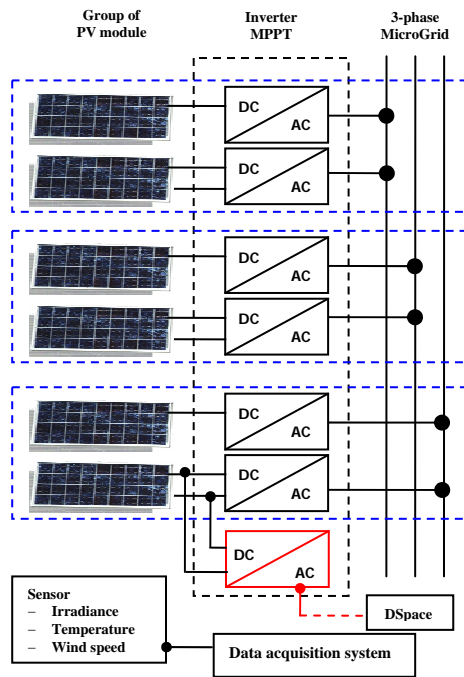


Figure 2. PV control scheme.

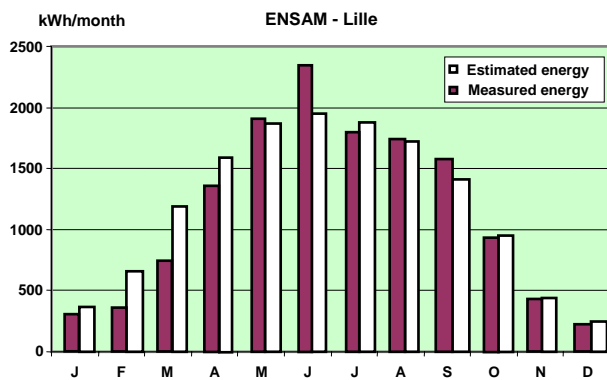


Figure 3. Photovoltaic energy produced in 2005.

### B. PV modelling and simulation

In a previous work, we have compared two models of photovoltaic modules: a classical one-diode model [18] and a simplified model [19]. Inputs of these models are the temperature and the irradiance. The simulated characteristics of the model suggested by W. Xiao and al. applied to the BP solar 3160 modules are shown in figure 4.

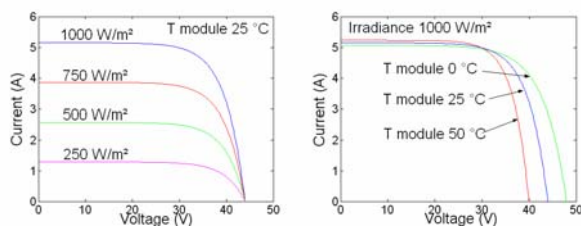


Figure 4. BP solar 3160 characteristic.

Figure 5 shows the accuracy of the modelling for one of the six PV-inverters. We can notice that the difference between measurement and simulation is negligible.

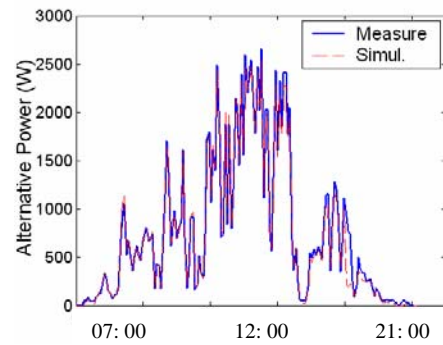


Figure 5. Photovoltaic power on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

## 3. Capstone Micro-turbine modelling

### A. Description of the Micro-turbine generator

For this application, we have chosen a Capstone Micro Turbine Generator, Model C330, (MTG) [6]. The device is a recuperated single stage radial flow compressor and turbine on a single shaft integral with the generator. This MTG is composed of the following subassemblies: a Turbo Generator (TG); a two-way Frequency Converter AC-DC-AC (FC); a Fuel Control System (FCS); and a Digital Power Controller (DPC). The block diagram for the power source based on Capstone 28kW Micro-Turbine technology is represented in Figure 6.

The Turbo Generator includes a Gas Compressor (GC), a Combustion Chamber (CC), a Turbine (T), a Heat Recuperator (HR), and a High-speed Generator (PMSM). This model of Capstone MTG is equipped with a low NO<sub>x</sub> combustion engine and an internal natural gas compressor. These rotating components are mounted on a single shaft supported by air bearings. Air from the generator then flows into the GC where it is pressurized and forced into the cold side of the HR. Exhaust heat is used to preheat the air before it enters the Combustion Chamber and thus reduce fuel consumption by about 50 percent. Then, the CC mixes the heated air with fuel and burns it. This mixture expands through the turbine, which drives the GC and generator at up to 96,000 RPM. The combusted air is then exhausted through the recuperator before being discharged at the exhaust outlet.

The used High-speed Generator is a two-pole Permanent Magnet Synchronous Machine (PMSM) with a non-salient rotor. This PMSM generator is cooled by the air flow into the Micro-turbine, and the output of the generator is a variable-voltage system, variable-frequency AC power at up to 1,600 Hz. At 1,600 Hertz (96,000 RPM), the machine output power is 28kW and its terminal line-to-line voltage is 400 V.

Two back-to-back power converters are used to generate 50Hz quantities to the grid. Generally, a one-way frequency converter AC-DC-AC with a diode rectifier is used to interface the high frequency alternator and the DC bus [13]. The Capstone C330 model uses a two-way frequency converter AC-DC-AC: the power structures of

both electronic converters are identical [6]. It can be shown that for this model of MTG, the generated current harmonics are adequately attenuated by the machine inductance and by the grid LC-filter [7],[8].

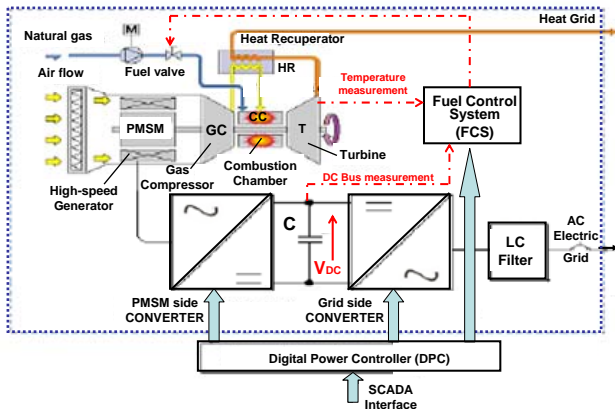


Figure 6. Gas micro-turbine generator.

A micro-turbine requires about 15-20 seconds for a 50% change in power output. The figure 7 shows the Capstone M330 Micro Turbine responses to a step change in the fuel valve [7].

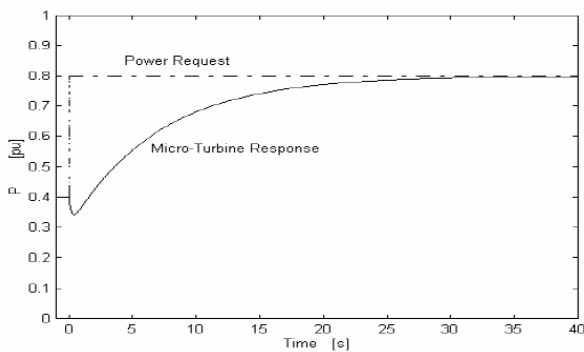


Figure 7. Capstone C330 Micro turbine Step Change Response.

To remove such limitations in the dynamics of the power sources some form of storage system is necessary at the AC or DC bus to cope with instantaneous changes in power demand. In an island mode, this is critical in the case of sensitive loads, because micro-grids will be incapable of meeting load requirements if a storage system is not included [4].

### B. MTG modelling and simulation

The dynamic modelling and simulation of the Micro-turbine have been discussed in details in many literatures [3]-[17]. We propose a short review of most of them. In 1983, a combustion gas turbine model was developed to represent the gas turbine dynamics [9]. In 1993, a working group proposed an extension of this work, including speed, temperature, acceleration and fuel controls [10]-[12]. However this work deals with heavy-duty gas turbines. H. Nikkhajoei and M. R. Iravani proposed a model for the MTG [15] based on the Nern's non-linear long term model of the Gas Turbo Generator [14]. In [3], the authors developed a generic model of a grid-connected micro-turbine converter.

In [13], a linearized model of the micro-turbine was adopted and compared to a first order transfer function. In [16], the authors were interested in analyzing thermodynamics and the electromechanical stability of micro turbines and [17] focused on the dynamic behaviour of a split shaft micro turbine.

After analysing these different modelling, we concluded that in certain conditions, it was possible to use a simple first order adaptive model with the variations of power. This is the model used in this work.

Table I presents the identified rise time value of output power. Figure 8 compares between the measured [7] and the simulated results [20] of Capstone C330 Micro turbine step power change response.

TABLE I. – MTG rise time value of output power

$\Delta P / P$	5000	10000	15000	20000	25000	28000
-28000	50	50	50	50	50	50
-15000	52	52	52	39	26	18
-10000	44	44	28	12	15	16
-5000	36	28	22	12	12	10
0	37	25	24	15	13	9
5000	38	22	26	18	14	8
10000	38	38	40	42	23	12
15000	38	38	38	30	21	16
28000	49	49	49	49	49	49

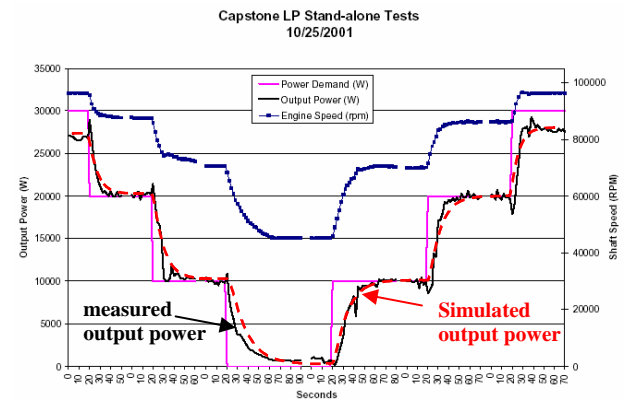


Figure 8. comparison between measured and simulated results of C330 Micro turbine step power change response.

## 4. Hybrid Photovoltaic/Microturbine system

### A. Description of the PV/MTG

The association of a photovoltaic system and a micro turbine allows the energy management:

- In a stand-alone system, the difference between the photovoltaic energy and loads is adjusted by the micro turbine which means energy storage system is not necessary.
- In a grid-connected system, in which the energy is controllable, this system can be considered by the grid as a small power plant, not only as a negative load.

## B. Simulation of the PV/MTG

The Matlab-Simulink model of PV/MTG micro-grid is shown in figure 9. Inputs of these models are the temperature, the irradiance and the power demand.

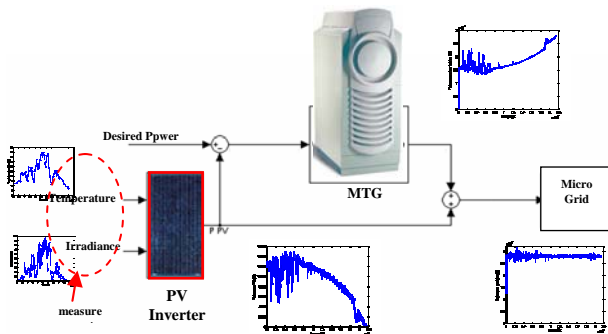


Figure 9. Matlab model of the PV/MTG micro-grid.

Figure 10 shows the various powers with an applied reference electric power of 28kW. The simulated results prove the effectiveness of the proposed solution. We can notice that the MTG practically compensate all the PV fluctuations of power. Nevertheless, it is necessary to reduce the fast fluctuations of power in the case of sensitive loads.

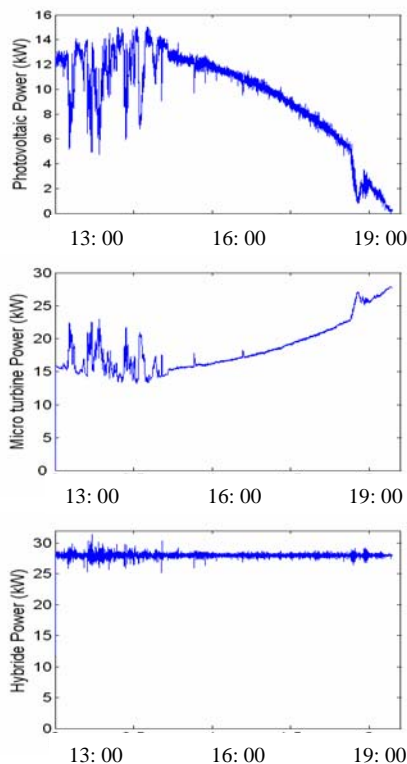


Figure 10. Power of PV/MTG micro-grid.

## 5. Conclusion

Initially, we carried out a simple and effective modelling of the PV and MTG generators. The effectiveness of the proposed hybrid system was verified by simulation. Lastly, we showed that short-term storage was necessary to reduce the fast fluctuations of power in the case of sensitive loads. In future work, we propose to use supercapacitors to reduce them (ANR French project).

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