# Solar PV Portfolio Owner What Management Solution Should I Buy?

# **Options - Total Cost**

- No monitoring
- Inverter manufacturer portal
- SolarVu equipment portals/enterprise
- Asset management software

# \$ INVERTER OEM MONITORING \$ Solarvu\* \$

INITIAL

COST

LOST

**REVENUE** 

20 YEARS

A comprehensive monitoring system offsets its initial cost by minimizing downtime with effective O&M and reporting

# Show me the money!

Minimize downtime = maximize energy revenue Reduce O&M costs, faster fault notification Meet LDC compliance requirements Verify correct LDC payments Performance analysis & financial reports

# **Energy Portal Selection Considerations**

Product benefits & features
Single interface for many brands of equipment
Initial & ongoing cost
Vendor competence & reputation
Vendor support
Future expansion flexibility

# Example 20MW Portfolio of 100 sites at 200kW ea

65,000 panels 5,400 strings 800 25kW inverters

### **REVENUE LOSS FROM FAULTY EQUIPMENT**

1 String 4,500kWh/yr = **\$2,500/yr** 25kW inverter 31MWh/yr = **\$18,000/yr** = **\$1,500/mo** 200kW site shut down 1,200kWh/summer day = **\$760/day** 





(FIT2=\$0.64/kWh)

# **Solar PV Managment Issues**

# STUFF HAPPENS

### COMMISSIONING

Incorrect comms settings in inverters and BOS devices Serial wiring errors by electrician Meter CT/PT wiring errors/settings Router network settings Weak 3G cellular reception Wrong/missing equipment data supplied

### **EQUIPMENT FAILURE**

Inverter failure
Solar panels fail
Corroded connections
Loose connection = overheating, fire hazard
Equipment left off after maintenance
BOS equipment failure weather sensors, meter, SCADA etc

### **ENVIRONMENT**

Combiner box water ingress
Rodent chews through panel wires
Lightning damages equipment
Grid issues cause shutdown - under/over voltage
Snow cover / dirt buildup

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Loss of internet connection
Router/network configuration
Customer changes router settings
Router/ network failure
3G SIM card disconnected non-payment
Weak reception in rural areas
Equipment loss of communications
Faulty connection
Incorrect settings after replacement
Noisy environment, data corruption

Inverter design - firmware bugs

### **GETTING PAID**

Utility payment below expected - meter fault / accounting LDC SCADA problem = shutdown by LDC RMA for warranty claim - support data









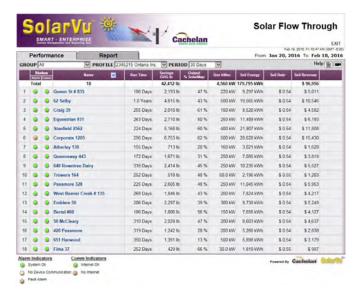






# Managing A Large Distributed Portfolio

### Portfolio Summary for owner, O&M, investors



### SolarVu SMART Enterprise Benefits

- Portfolio alarm status
- **▼** Print custom reports
- **▼** Diagnostic tools
- **View / download**
- Reduce routine checks
- **✓** Online document retrieval
- **▼** One GUI for mixed vendors
- Download data for analysis
- **▼** One login for all sites

### Free to SolarVu owners

### Detailed screens by site

### Live & lifetime energy/revenue



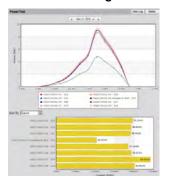
### **Equipment status & logs**



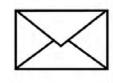
### Portfolio performance reports

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### Troubleshooting tools



### **Email performance reports & alarm notifications**





### SolarVu gateway enclosure



### Site conditions



### LDC SCADA monitor/control







# **Energy Portal Requirements**

SolarVu portals address these issues

### **COMMISSIONING**

Debug wiring, network, comms settings, equipment settings Prove all devices 100% working before signoff & payment Performance meets specs, monitor after initial installation LDC SCADA testing & signoff for connection permission

### O&M OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

Alarms - immediate email faults, abnormal conditions eg sun low power, equipment faults Live status, Enterprise view of faults - navigate to site for details, by exception

Understand problem before dispatch to minimize site labour & visits. Bring correct spares Diagnostic Tools for O&M service provider

Live inverter/meter values,

Equipment logs text and data last 30 days - detects intermittent problems

Internet communication live status and 30 day reception log

String level monitoring

Compare inverters to detect bad strings, performance problems

Best days - prove system achieves design capacity

Local weather conditions, panel snow cover, roof conditions (cameras)

Communications

LAN network, setup settings, dropout

3G cellular SIM setup, antenna rural reception, bill management, renewals

Notification

Email status and alarms with cause of fault, location, link to diagnostic screen

Alarm indicators on screens

Single user interface for all equipment now and in future

Access anywhere - PC, phone, tablet, multiple locations, no software-browser access

Documents and records

Online document retrieval, roof layout, manuals, error codes, drawings

Online help & videos

### **REPORTING & ANALYSIS**

Live browser view any time period \$, energy, performance, carbon offset

On demand PDF reports for any time period, required parameters, by all sites or subgroups Portfolio financial performance reports

Human data download for spreadheet analysis

API for server data transfer to support Asset Manager Software programs

Compare to similar sites

### **PAYMENTS**

Verify utility payment for period is correct. Data to back up claims 3G SIM card management, view status, control on/off bill verification Equipment failure - data to expedite RMA warranty claim

O&M provider maintenance records by site

# **FUTURE EXPANSION**

Additional LDC compliance requirements- inverter control, power output

New OEM devices - inverters, combiners, power opimizers.

Storage - monitor, TOU (time of use control)

FIT subsidies replaced by net metering & behind the meter

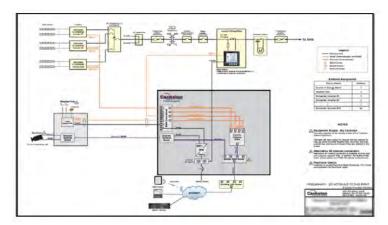
EV charge control & metering



# Installing SolarVu

## For Each Project

Cachelan prepares SLD for communications showing options & connections from system details



Detailed quote for approval based on budget summary



### From quote select suitable options for each location

Standard SolarVu portal alarms, equipment logs, diagnostics, reports

- + WeatherTrak irradiance SunLowPower alarm for every inverter
- + SnoCam Local weather, roof snow cover
- + PayCheck Meter & log to verify utility payments
- + 3G cellular (if no LAN) + dataplan from Cachelan
- + LDC SCADA if required in CIA by LDC, design to spec &commission

Build equipment



Ship to installer

Configure portal



Add to Enterprise account



**O&M Support** 



Reports, alarm alerts, updates

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After commissioning

After Ordering

# **Learn More**

Visit <u>cachelan</u> .com

Web pages and Videos describing features SolarVu brochure

See live sites that use SolarVu Installation guides, technical resources



### Technical Support

### SolarVu<sup>®</sup> INSTALLATION GUIDES

Inverters AE 35-100TX (PVPowered PVP35-100kW) AE 250TX (PVPowered PVP250kW) AE 500TX (PVPowered PVP500kW) AE 500NX (AE Solaron 500 kW) AE 3TL(REFUsol) Canadian Solar CSI-23/28/36KTL-CT Eaton PV Series Fronius IG Plus V(422 Comm Card - IFP) Fronius IG Plus V(Modbus Comm Card - DataCom) Fronius Symo(DM2 Modbus) Kaco Blueplanet Kaco XP10U Kaco TL3 Kaco XP100 Series Outback Flex, FlexMax, FX, MX, Mate PowerOne PVI5000/6000/10/12 Santerno TG NA Satcon PG Plus Schneider Conext CL18000/25000 Schneider Xantrex GT5 Schneider Xantrex GT250 SMA Sunnyboy Series SMA Sunny Tripower TL Series(Speedwire) SolarEdge SE Series Solectria PVI-3000/4000/5000/5500 Solectria PVI 10-90K Sungrow Central Inverters Sungrow SG30/36KU

Sunergy ELV
Accessories +

### BROCHURES

SolarVu<sup>®</sup> Energy Portal NRGPilot™ SmartGrid Portal WebFilm<sup>®</sup>

### VIDEOS

### Tutorials -

Solar/u Tour Solar/u SMART Enterprise What is Solar/u? Solar/u WeatherTrak Solar/u Arc Fault Alarm Solar/u ANALYZER - Equipment Log Solar/u ANALYZER - Smart Strings K135 Indicators Fronius Installation

Education +

### NEWSLETTERS -

How much money did you make on Family Day? Solar PV Reports - 1 2 3 DONE! FIT4 Contract or Net Metering Its Sunny - Where Are My Watts? New Years Resolution - Solar PV Carbon Tax Calculator MicroGrids Monitor DG Storage 21st Century Archemedes Enterprise - Many Vendors, One Interface SolarVu Tour Not Your Grampas Weather Station Arc Faults Needle in a Haystack To Shovel or Not to Shovel No Jacket Required O&M Use the right tools Does your CIA require SCADA? Stuff Happens And the Winner Is Winter Blahs Show Me the Money

**TECHNICAL & HOW TO +** 

GRAPHICS +



