

Automatic tests deliver
definitive results in less than

one MINUTE

A new industry problem solved by TMAC's portable testing device.

As Australians look to offset rising electricity costs and reduce their impact on the environment, solar energy has become increasingly popular. Installing solar panels is now an affordable and attractive option for residents, but this has caused a new problem for utility companies throughout the country.

In areas where multiple PV systems are connected to the local grid, competing currents raise the voltage levels above the acceptable range, causing fluctuations and repeated system shutdowns. Utility companies have been fielding many customer complaints on a daily basis.

Fixing this problem wasn't easy. There was no existing device that could identify which individual household connection was causing the issue. Technicians relied on manual monitoring of the PV systems with data loggers – a time-consuming approach that still didn't pinpoint exactly which connections were at fault.

Active innovation

One Queensland utility company approached TMAC to see if we could find a better way. We developed a testing device that could be placed between the grid supply and the Grid-Tie Inverter. It was robust enough to handle the 5KW throughput into the grid, and contained an LCD display to digitally record the voltage.

A better way

After further collaboration between TMAC and the utility company, we fine-tuned the device and incorporated additional features. Called the TMAC Grid Tie Voltage Injection Set (GTVIS), this fully Australian Standards Approved device is easy-to-use, inserting directly into the service to automatically test for problem connections.

GTVIS is now being extensively used by the utility company throughout their network and there is considerable interest from other utility companies across Australia. This device is saving countless technicians hours, making local area networks more reliable, and dramatically reducing customer complaints.

TMAC's determination to find the next perfect solution has delivered another positive industry outcome.

TMAC rose to this new industry challenge. We knew this was another opportunity to apply our expertise to create an innovative solution.

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