SPE View on Policy Options for Securing Inertia with regard to PV + Storage

38th GC ESC Meeting - 05 June 2025

Thorsten Bülo (SMA & SolarPower Europe expert representative)

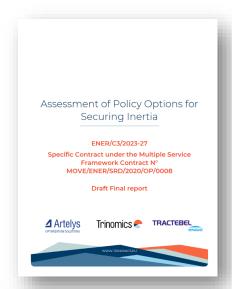






Motivation: Workshop based on Draft Report "Assessment of Policy Options for Securing Inertia"

- Report addresses inertia needs and discusses technology and policy options to secure inertia
- We strongly appreciate the investigation of the policy options and the authors considering our feedback for the final report
- The technologies taken into focus were
 - Synchronous and Induction Machines
 - **Inverter Based Ressources**
- Inverter-based Resources (IBR) taken into account were
 - **Battery Electric Storage Systems**
 - PV / Wind / HVDC / (E-)Statcom (more or less) considered to utilize ultracapacitors as additional Storage
- The Technology Readiness (TRL) of GFM IBRs has been estimated to be 7-8;
- TRL has not been distinguished among the IBR types





Technology

Technology Readiness Levels in the report need to be revised

- Single TRL for all GFM IBR Technologies is misleading
- TRL depends strongly on Technology of Source connected to the converter
 - GFM battery inverters: TRL 9
 - commercially available and in operation in GB
 - Deployed at utility-scale since 2018*
 - 2.2 GW+ active across multiple regions (see ESIG overview on GFM Projects with 47 Multi-MW BESS Projects and mentions)
 - GFM PV inverters: TRL 3–4*
 - only asymmetrical contribution to inertia w/o additional storage
 - Potentially yet unknown effects of GFM operation on losses/energy yield/ stability under realistic conditions
 - GFM Wind inverters: Intermediate (to be classified by wind industry)
- Backed by <u>Agora Energiewende</u> (2024 report) and <u>ARENA frameworks</u>.



Realistic consideration of TRL is crucial for Stability Frameworks

- Appropriately designed **Market based** approaches allow
 - to (cost-)effectively utilize High-GFM-TRL technologies fast to provide secure Inertia
 - to let Low-GFM-TRL technologies develop and gather experience
- Non-technology-specific **connection requirements** may
 - lead to stability issues due to limited operational experience with Low-GFM-TRL specific characteristics (e.g. asymmetric inertia) and thus insufficient specifications
 - or result in market failure if overly stringent requirements are imposed since requirements can't be met by some Low-GFM-TRL technologies
- Side note beyond Inertia and GFM capabilities:
 - TRL of GFL-"PV-only's" capabilities to contribute to voltage and (Low-Inertia-) frequency stability is already high
 - The utilization of those capabilities throughout Europe could be improved

High-TRL-approach: Grid Forming Battery + Grid Supporting PV



Focus: Flexibility and System Services

- Voltage Source behaviour and Inertia with secured **Power and Energy Reserve**
- **Enhanced Power/Frequency Balancing**

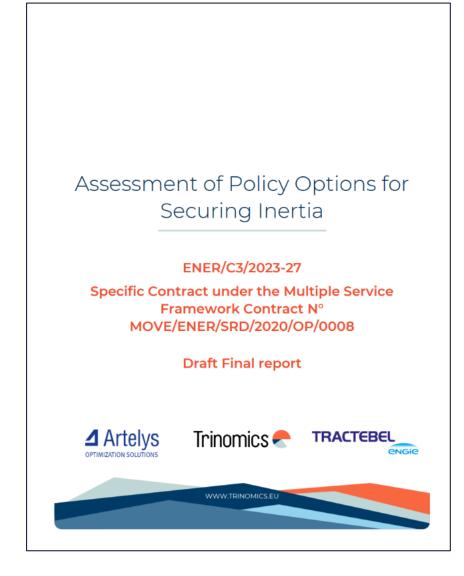


Focus: Efficient Electricity Generation

- Voltage Control + Power Oscillation Damping
- High Robustness (Voltage-, Frequency- and ROCOF-) Ride-Through capabilities
- Fast frequency response (e.g. LFSM) for low inertia frequency stability

Our Recommendations on the Inertia report

- 1. Engage industry stakeholders to improve the accuracy of TRL evaluations for battery technologies.
 - Recognize the TRL 9 status of commercially operating gridforming batteries, including those deployed e.g. in GB
- 2. Distinguish TRLs across grid-forming IBR technologies to reflect
 - their varying maturity and clarify their specific contributions to inertia and system services
 - and the effect of different TRL on the recommendation of Policy Options
- 3. Apply technology-agnostic TRL frameworks, such as ARENA's, to ensure objective and unbiased assessment.



Solar Role in Grid Stability

The solar industry supports grid integration through advanced storage grid stability / grid forming systems and control systems.

- Case 1 France (Corsica, La Réunion): Akuo Energy uses solar PV + Li-ion batteries (since 2014) for bi-directional frequency response and night peak load shifting.
- Case 2 St. Eustatius: Since 2017, operates without synchronous machines using grid-forming batteries and solar PV.
- Case 3 Great Britain: 100+ MW grid-forming batteries
 (2025) will provide inertia, short-circuit power, and market-based ancillary services. → Zenobē commences
 construction of its Kilmarnock South battery project, in drive
 to maximise renewables and reduce the cost of wasted wind
 Zenobē

