

## ContainerPower Energy Solutions

# Converting ordinary inverter to grid-connected inverter



## Overview

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What is the control design of a grid connected inverter?

The control design of this type of inverter may be challenging as several algorithms are required to run the inverter. This reference design uses the C2000 microcontroller (MCU) family of devices to implement control of a grid connected inverter with output current control.

Do grid-tied inverters need tight synchronization with grid power?

Among these requirements, the need for tight synchronization with grid power is paramount. When driving power to the grid, grid-tied inverters must provide a stable, sinusoidal AC waveform that matches grid voltage and frequency according to utility standards.

How do solar inverters sync with the grid?

To safely sync with the grid, solar inverters must follow strict standards like IEEE 1547 and UL 1741. These ensure the inverter matches grid voltage, frequency, and phase before connecting. Smart inverters also follow protocols like SunSpec or Modbus for real-time communication with utility systems.

How to choose an inverter for a power grid?

In most regions, the grid runs at either 50Hz or 60Hz. The inverter must align with this frequency to avoid sending unstable power. Phase angle is another vital piece. The inverter's AC waveform must be in sync with the grid's waveform. Even small mismatches can lead to inefficiencies or harmonic issues. Lastly, waveform quality matters.

How does a grid forming inverter work?

Grid-forming inverters can start up a grid if it goes down—a process known as black start. Traditional “grid-following” inverters require an outside signal from the electrical grid to determine when the switching will occur in order to produce a sine wave that can be injected into the power grid.

What is a grid-tied inverter?

Connected to the utility power grid, small-scale residential energy-harvesting systems offer customers the opportunity to earn credit by passing excess generated power to the grid. At the heart of these systems, grid-tied inverters are responsible for delivering this excess power seamlessly, meeting specific requirements for power quality.

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