# Sizing Of Off-Grid Photovoltaic Power System For Internet Café And Portable Device Charging Station

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Abstract- In this paper, sizing of off-grid photovoltaic power system for internet café and portable device charging station is presented. First, the load demand profile of the internet café and portable device charging station was determined. Next, the geo-coordinates of the internet café was used to download the solar radiation data for the sizing computation. The actual sizing operation was performed using PVSyst software. The PVSyst was used to model the hourly distribution of the load, as well as the configuration of the PV array and the battery bank. The simulation results showed that there are 24 pieces of 250 Wp photovoltaic (PV) modules in the PV array which occupied a total area of 39  $m^2$ and gave a total output power of 5.31 kWp. The battery bank consisted of 112 batteries (with 4 batteries in series and 28 battery strings in parallel) and the battery has a total capacity of 2800 Ah at nominal battery voltage of 48V. The average yearly energy output available from the PV array is 6.97 MWh/year, the energy used by the load is 5.74 MWh/year, missing energy (energy demanded but not supplied) is 0.15 MWh/year, the annual user load demand is 5.884 MWh/year) and a solar fraction of 97.52% . Furthermore, the system has a performance ratio of 63.0%. In essence, about 37 % of the energy generated from the PV array are lost.

Keywords: PVSyst Software, Sizing Of Solar Power System, Optimal Tilt Angle, Off-Grid Power System, Photovoltaic Power, Loss Diagram

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, there is increasing adoption of information and communication technologies (ICT) in the remote parts of developing countries and this has necessitated the provision of access to internet for people in such areas [1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8]. Also, the use of portable smart phones and smart devices to perform most of the ICT operations and also access the internet has also prompted the provision of both internet access hotspots

and wireless network base stations in remote areas [9,10,11].

Particularly, in Nigeria, people living in most of the rural communities across the nation suffer both lack of access to electric power supply and lack of internet service [12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19]. In some cases, the cellular network services are available but with weak signals that frustrate the users. In such cases, some organizations and business experts setup solar-powered internet café' and mobile device charging stations to serve the rural communities that are cutoff from the national grid and mainstream internet services.

Notably, the solar power has been adjudged to be the best alternative energy supply because it is environmentally friendly and also it is increasingly becoming affordable in view of the steady decrease in the setup and running costs of the photovoltaic solar power supply components [20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28]. Importantly, in order to meet the desired energy demand, the solar power components must be properly selected in terms of their capacities to accommodate the variations in the solar radiation and the need to meet the power demand irrespective of such variations [29,30,31,32,33]. Accordingly, in this paper, the sizing of the solar power supply system for a case study internet café and portable device charging station is presented. The sizing operation is carried out using PVSyst software.

## **2 METHODOLOGY**

## 2.1 The Load Demand and Meteorological Data

The approached used in the sizing of the off-grid photovoltaic power system includes determination of the daily load demand profile, acquisition of meteorological data of the installation site, sizing of the PV array, the battery band as well as sizing of the inverter and charger controller. The daily load demand profile is obtained and presented in Table 1. The Google map showing the location of the case study PV power installation site near Swali Market in Yenagoa Bayelsa State at coordinates (of 4.918729, 6.267808) with latitude of 4.918729 and longitude of 6.267808, as shown in Figure 1. The load profile of the case study as modelled in the PVSyst software is shown in Figure 2 while Figure 3 shows the hourly distribution of the case study load as modelled in the PVSyst software.

| -   |  | e care ana per        |          | narging statio         | i dang teda de       | inana prome                 |
|-----|--|-----------------------|----------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| S/N | Appliance                              | Rated<br>Power<br>(W) | Quantity | Total<br>Power<br>(kW) | Hours per<br>day (h) | Energy Per Day<br>(kWh/day) |
| 1   | Laptop<br>Computer                     | 65                    | 20       | 1.3                    | 10                   | 13                          |
| 2   | TranzeoWiFi<br>radio                   | 6                     | 2        | 0.012                  | 10                   | 0.12                        |
| 3   | Cell phone<br>charger                  | 5                     | 20       | 0.1                    | 10                   | 1                           |
| 4   | Digital Camera<br>battery charger      | 6                     | 10       | 0.06                   | 10                   | 0.6                         |
| 5   | Photo Printer<br>for Digital<br>Camera | 10                    | 10       | 0.1                    | 10                   | 1                           |
| 6   | DC Fan for the<br>WiFi radio           | 25                    | 2        | 0.05                   | 10                   | 0.5                         |
|     |  | Total                 | 64       | 1.622                  |                      | 16.12                       |





Figure 1 The Google map showing the location of the PV power installation site near Swali Market in Yenagoa Bayelsa State at coordinates of latitude of 4.918729 and longitude of 6.267808

|                                   | Definitio                            | n of Da  | aily Hou                                    | sehold        | consi    | umptions, yea  | r         |        |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|---|---------------|----------|----------------|-----------|--------|
| onsumption                        | 8 Hourly distribution                |          | 1141 G                                      |               |          |                |           |        |
| Daily con:<br>Number              | sumptions<br>Appliance               | Power    |   | Daily u       | se       | Hourly distrib | Daily en  | ergy   |
| 20                                | Laptop Computer                      | 65       | W/lamp                                      | 10.0          | h/day    | OK             | 13000     | Wh     |
| 2 -                               | TranzeoWiFi radio                    | 6        | W/app.                                      | 10.0          | h/day    | OK             | 120       | Wh     |
| 20 -                              | Cell phone charger                   | 5        | W/app.                                      | 10.0          | h/day    | OK             | 1000      | Wh     |
|                                   |                                      | 0.01     | kWh/day                                     | 10.0          | h/day    |                | 0         | Wh     |
| 10 -                              | o Printer for Digital Camera         | 10.0     | W aver.                                     | 9.0           | h/day    | OK             | 900       | Wh     |
| 2 -                               | DC Fan for the WiFi radio            | 25       | W/app.                                      | 10.0          | h/day    | ОК             | 500       | Wh     |
| 10 -                              | ital Camera battery charger          | 6        | W/app.                                      | 10.0          | h/day    | OK             | 600       | Wh     |
|                                   | Stand-by consumers                   | 0        | W tot                                       | 24 h/c        | lay      |                | 0         | Wh     |
| 2 Appl                            | iances info                          |          |   | Total         | daily en | ergy           | 16120     | Wh/day |
| * Abbi                            | lances into                          |          | Total monthly energy                        |               |          | 483.6          | kWh/month |        |
| Consump<br>Year<br>Seaso<br>Month | tion definition by<br>?<br>ons<br>ns | Veek-end | <b>Ior Week</b><br>nlyduring<br>days in a v | <b>ly use</b> |          |                |           |        |
| odel<br>B                         | oad 🛛 🖹 Save                         |          |   |               |          |                |           |        |
|                                   |                                      |          |   |               |          |                |           |        |

Figure 2 The load profile of the case study as modelled in the PVSyst software



Figure 3 The hourly distribution of the case study load as modelled in the PVSyst software

$$\eta_{PV} = \eta_{PVSTC} \left[ 1 + K \left( T_{op} - 25 \,^{\circ} C \right) \right] \quad (3)$$

#### 2.2 Sizing of the PV System Components

The PV array power output denoted as  $P_{PV}$  is computed from the daily energy demand ( $E_{PV}$ ) to be supplied by the PV array, as;

The output power, P<sub>pva</sub> of the PV array is determined as

$$P_{PV} = \frac{E_{PV}}{(\eta_l) (\eta_c) (f_{dl}) (PSH)}$$
(1)

Where  $\eta_{PV}$  is the PV module efficiency,  $\eta_c$  is the efficiency of the charge controller,  $f_{dl}$  are total dirating factors ( $f_{dl}$  is about 0.88), PSH is the daily peak sunshine hours. Also,  $P_{PV}$  is related to  $A_{tm}$  (that is the required total area of the PV array) as follows;

$$P_{PV} = \eta_{PV}(S_r)(A_{tm}) \qquad (2)$$

where  $S_r$  denotes the solar radiation on the plane of the PV module and  $\eta_{PV}$  is the PV module efficiency which is given as;

Where:  $\eta_{PVSTC}$  denotes the standard test condition module efficiency under, K denotes the cell temperature coefficient for the PV module,  $T_{op}$  denotes the operating cell temperature the PV module. Let the area for one PV module be denoted as  $A_m$  and  $N_{PV}$  denote the number of PV modules in the PV array, then;

$$A_{tm} = (A_m)N_{PV} = \frac{P_{PV}}{\eta_{PV}(S_r)} \qquad (4)$$

Hence,

$$N_{PV} = \frac{P_{PV}}{\eta_{PV}(S_r)(A_m)}$$
(5)

Let  $N_{SPV}$  denote the number of PV modules that are connected in series,  $N_{PVP}$  denote the number of PV modules strings that are connected in parallel, the PV module nominal voltage be denoted as  $V_{PV}$  and the system line voltage be denoted as  $V_{SYS}$ , then;

$$N_{SPV} = \frac{V_{SYS}}{V_{PV}} \tag{6}$$

$$N_{PVP} = \frac{N_{PV}}{N_{SPV}} \tag{7}$$

Let  $N_{DA}$  denote the number of days of autonomy, DoD denote the depth of discharge, the individual battery nominal voltage be denoted as  $V_{bat}$ ,  $f_{bat}$  is a parameter to account for battery self-discharge and other safety operating considerations ( $f_{bat}$  is about 0.85) and the total watt-hour per day which is daily load demand is denoted as  $E_{PV}$ , then required Ampere-hour (Ah) battery capacity denoted  $E_{bb}$  as is given as;

$$E_{bb} = \frac{E_{PV}(N_{DA})}{f_{bat} \times \text{DoD} \times V_{SYS}}$$
(8)

Let the number of batteries in series be denoted as  $N_{sbat}$ , the number of batteries in parallel be denoted as  $N_{pbat}$ , denote the Ampere-hour (Ah) capacity of each battery be denoted  $C_{bat}$  and the total number of batteries be denoted as  $N_{bat}$ , then;

$$N_{Sbat} = \frac{V_{SYS}}{V_{bat}} \qquad (9)$$

$$N_{bat} = \frac{E_{bb}}{C_{bat}}$$
 (10)

$$N_{pbat} = \frac{N_{pbat}}{N_{sbat}} \quad (10)$$

The inverter is used to convert the DC power into AC power output and it operates at the same terminal voltage of the battery bank (which in this case is  $V_{SYS}$ ). Usually, a safety factor,  $f_{INVsaf}$  is recommended to oversize the inverter above the load demand it will support, Hence, inverter capacity denoted as  $C_{INV}$  is given as;

$$C_{INV} = P_{PV}(1 + f_{INVsaf})$$
(11)

Where  $f_{INVsaf}$  is about 0.2 to 0.3.

The selection of the PV module , battery, charger controller and inverter for the solar power system is implemented using PVSyst , and the screenshot of the configuration of the system PV array, and battery bank is shown in Figure 4. The system configuration in Figure 4 was used in PVSyst software to simulate the solar power system operation



Figure 4 The screenshot of the PVSyst configuration of the PV array, battery bank, and charger controller for the solar power system

#### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The simulation parameters setting used in the PVSyst software, as shown in Figure 5 shows that there are 24 PV modules (each rates 250 Wp at STC) in the PV array which occupies a total area of  $39 m^2$  and a total operating power of 5.31 kWp at 50°C. The battery bank consists of 112 batteries ( with 4 batteries in series and 28 battery strings in parallel) and the battery has a total capacity of 2800 Ah at nominal battery voltage of 48V. Also, the daily user needs or electric load demand (as captured in the PVSyst simulation parameters in Figure 6) shows that the daily energy demand is 16120 Wh/day.

The average yearly energy output available from the PV array is 6.97 MWh/year, the energy used by the load is 5.74

MWh/year, missing energy (energy demanded but not supplied) is 0.15 MWh/year. The annual user load demand (in Figure 6) is 5.884 MWh/year) and for with the 5.74 MWh/year energy delivered to the load per year, the solar fraction is computed as (5.74\*100%)/5.884) which amounts to a solar fraction of 97.52% (as shown in Figure 7). Furthermore, the system has a performance ratio of 63.0%. In essence, about 37 % of the energy generated from the PV array are lost, as shown in the loss diagram of Figure 8.

The simulation parameters setting used in the PVSyst software z

| PVSYST V6.70   |   |   | 1  | 8/03/22 Page 1/4  |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| S  | Stand Alone System:   | Simulation pa   | rameters   |   |
| Project : Ir   | nternet Cafe Sizing   |   |  |   |
| Geographical Site  | BAYELSA STATE   |   | Country  | Nigeria   |
| Situation<br>Time defined as   | Latitude<br>Legal Time<br>Albedo<br><b>BAYELSA STATE</b>  | 4.79° N<br>Time zone UT<br>0.20<br>NASA-SSE satellite   | Longitude<br>Altitude  | 6.32° E<br>62 m<br>05 - Synthetic                                       |
| Simulation variant (   |   |   |  |   |
|  | Simulation variant  | 18/03/22 04h45  |  |   |
| Simulation parameters  | System type   | Stand-alone syste   | m  |   |
| Collector Plane Orientation  | n Tilt  | 11°   | Azimuth  | 0°  |
| Models used  | Transposition   | Hay   | Diffuse  | Perez, Meteonorm  |
| PV Array Characteristics<br>PV module<br>Original PVsyst database<br>Number of PV modules<br>Total number of PV modules<br>Array global power<br>Array operating characteristics<br>Total area | Si-mono Model<br>Manufacturer<br>In series<br>Nb. modules<br>Nominal (STC)<br>s (50°C) U mpp<br>Module area | <b>SNA-PVSTD-LUXE</b><br>SNAsolar<br>2 modules<br>24 U<br><b>6.00 kWp</b> At of<br>54 V<br><b>39.0 m</b> <sup>2</sup> | MONO 250<br>In parallel<br>nit Nom. Power<br>operating cond.<br>I mpp<br>Cell area             | 12 strings<br>250 Wp<br>5.31 kWp (50°C)<br>99 A<br>34.7 m²              |
| PV Array loss factors  |   |   |  |   |
| Thermal Loss factor  | Uc (const)  | 20.0 W/m²K  | Uv (wind)  | 0.0 W/m²K / m/s   |
| Wiring Ohmic Loss<br>Serie Diode Loss<br>Module Quality Loss<br>Module Mismatch Losses<br>Strings Mismatch loss<br>Incidence effect, ASHRAE pa   | Global array res.<br>Voltage Drop<br>rametrization IAM =  | 9.2 mOhm<br>0.7 V<br>1 - bo (1/cos i - 1)   | Loss Fraction<br>Loss Fraction<br>Loss Fraction<br>Loss Fraction<br>Loss Fraction<br>bo Param. | 1.5 % at STC<br>1.2 % at STC<br>1.5 %<br>1.0 % at MPP<br>0.10 %<br>0.05 |
| System Parameter   | System type   | Stand Alone Syste   | em   |   |
| Battery<br>Battery Pack Characteristics  | Model<br>Manufacturer<br>Voltage<br>Nb. of units<br>Temperature   | Volta 6SB100<br>Volta<br>48 V No<br>4 in series x 28 in p<br>Fixed (20°C)   | ominal Capacity<br>arallel   | 2800 Ah   |
| Controller<br>Converter  | Model<br>Technology<br>Maxi and EURO efficiencies   | Universal controller<br>MPPT converter<br>97.0 / 95.0 %   | with MPPT conve<br>Temp coeff.   | erter<br>-5.0 mV/°C/elem.   |
| Battery Management control   | Threshold commands as<br>Charging<br>Discharging  | SOC calculation<br>SOC = 0.90 / 0.75<br>SOC = 0.20 / 0.45   | i.e. approx.<br>i.e. approx.   | 52.6 / 50.1 V<br>47.3 / 48.9 V  |
| User's needs :   | Daily household consumers<br>average  | Constant over the y<br>16.1 kWh/Day   | ear  |   |

Figure 5 The simulation parameters setting used in the PVSyst software

| PVSYST V6.70  |                             |                                |  |  | 18/03/22  | Page 2/4   |
|---|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|---|--|
|   | Stand Alone Syste           | em:                            | Detailed User  | 's needs   |   |  |
| Project : Internet Cafe Sizing  |                             |                                |  |  |   |  |
| Simulation variant : New simulation variant   |                             |                                |  |  |   |  |
| Main system parameters System type Stand alone   PV Field Orientation 11° az   PV modules Model SNA-PVSTD-LUXE MONO 28   PV Array Nb. of modules 24 Pnon   Battery Model Volta 6SB100 Techr   Battery Pack Nb. of units 112 Voltage / Ca   User's needs Daily household consumers, Constant over the year, average = 16.1 kWh/day |                             |                                |  |  | 0°<br>250 Wp<br>6.00 kV<br>Lead-ad<br>48 V / 2<br>5884 kV | <b>Vp</b><br>cid, sealed, tub<br>8 <b>00 Ah</b><br>Wh/year                       |
|   | An                          | nnual                          | values   |  |   |  |
|   | Nur                         | mber                           | Power  | Use  |   | Energy   |
|   | 1141                        |                                |  |  |   |  |
| Laptop Computer   | 2                           | 20                             | 65 W/lamp  | 10 h/  | day 13  | 000 Wh/day   |
| Laptop Computer<br>TranzeoWiFi radio  | 2                           | 20<br>2                        | 65 W/lamp<br>6 W/app                                   | 10 h/<br>10 h/   | day 13<br>day   | 8000 Wh/day<br>120 Wh/day  |
| Laptop Computer<br>TranzeoWiFi radio<br>Cell phone charger  | 2                           | 20<br>2<br>20<br>20            | 65 W/lamp<br>6 W/app<br>5 W/app                        | 10 h/<br>10 h/<br>10 h/                                  | day 13<br>day<br>day 1                                    | 8000 Wh/day<br>120 Wh/day<br>800 Wh/day  |
| Laptop Computer<br>TranzeoWiFi radio<br>Cell phone charger<br>Photo Printer for Digital   | Camera 1                    | 20<br>2<br>20<br>20<br>10      | 65 W/lamp<br>6 W/app<br>5 W/app                        | 10 h/<br>10 h/<br>10 h/<br>9 Wh/                         | day 13<br>day<br>day 1<br>day 1<br>day                    | 000 Wh/day<br>120 Wh/day<br>000 Wh/day<br>900 Wh/day                             |
| Laptop Computer<br>TranzeoWiFi radio<br>Cell phone charger<br>Photo Printer for Digital<br>DC Fan for the WiFi radi   | Camera 1                    | 20<br>2<br>20<br>10<br>2       | 65 W/lamp<br>6 W/app<br>5 W/app<br>25 W tot            | 10 h/<br>10 h/<br>10 h/<br>9 Wh/<br>10 h/                | day 13<br>day<br>day 1<br>day<br>day                      | 0000 Wh/day<br>120 Wh/day<br>000 Wh/day<br>900 Wh/day<br>500 Wh/day              |
| Laptop Computer<br>TranzeoWiFi radio<br>Cell phone charger<br>Photo Printer for Digital<br>DC Fan for the WiFi radi<br>Digital Camera battery cl  | Camera 1<br>o 2<br>narger 1 | 20<br>2<br>20<br>10<br>2<br>10 | 65 W/lamp<br>6 W/app<br>5 W/app<br>25 W tot<br>6 W tot | 10 h/v<br>10 h/v<br>10 h/v<br>9 Wh/v<br>10 h/v<br>10 h/v | day 13<br>day<br>day 1<br>day<br>day<br>day<br>day        | 000 Wh/day<br>120 Wh/day<br>000 Wh/day<br>900 Wh/day<br>500 Wh/day<br>600 Wh/day |

Figure 6 The daily user needs or electric load demand



Figure 7 The main simulation results for the solar power system



Figure 8 The loss diagram for the solar power system

## **4 CONCLUSION**

The sizing of PV solar power using the load demand and solar radiation data of the case study for internet café and portable device charging station is presented. The component sizing operation was implemented using PVSyst simulation software which has features for modelling the load demand, the battery bank, the PV array and other components that make up the PV solar power system. The results show that on annual basis, the solar power system can satisfy the load demand of the case study internet café and portable device charging station in about 97.5 % of the time.

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