

PHOTOVOLTAIC FACT SHEETS

European Photovoltaic Technology Platform



Some people state that "Decentralised PV systems are not sufficient for commercial requirements."

The fact is: Photovoltaic (PV) systems are often the most suitable solution for stand-alone applications. Moreover, solar energy can increasingly provide viable solutions for industrial energy service applications where power is required at remote locations. For larger electrical loads, PV can be combined with other renewable energy technologies or a small diesel generator to form a PV hybrid system.



Moreover, PV as part of hybrid systems provides suitable solutions for various applications in remote areas. PV hybrid systems can supply power for individual consumers such as houses or workshops up to MW-range mini-grids in which PV can be combined with wind, micro-hydro and other sources. PV can thereby contribute to income generation activities such as farms, water pumps, shops, small businesses and industries as well as education facilities.

"Off-grid applications are the most competitive solution in many situations"

Prof. Jürgen Schmid,
ISET - Institut für Solare
Energieversorgungstechnik



PV is used in remote areas where it is often the most cost-competitive solution. In 2005, PV for off-grid applications represented 8% of the PV market with 96 MW of installed capacity. Commercial applications for solar power include:

- Communication systems
- Navigation systems
- Cathodic protection
- Street lighting
- Security applications



PV generator in Gambia

Therefore the correct statement is: "Solar energy is the power supply of choice for numerous commercial applications and for larger electrical loads it can be cost effective to configure a hybrid system including PV."



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