2008 Solar Annual Review Meeting

Session: Grid Integration & Inverters



Development of an AC Module System

Miles C. Russell GreenRay, Inc.

Project Objective

Create a Simpler PV System

- Easier system design
- Faster system installation
- Safer to work with
- Size flexibility
- Performance advantages
- Improved reliability
- Easier performance monitoring



Lower cost energy to the customer



Meeting DOE Goals

TIOs		Metrics				
Tier 1 TIOs	Tier 2 TIOs	Performance Efficiency	Cost	O&M	Reliability	
Modules	Module					
	Cells and Contacts					
	Interconnects					
	Packaging					
Inverter & BOS	Inverter	х	Х	Х	Х	
	Inverter Software					
	Inverter Components/Design					
	Inverter Packaging/Manufacturing					
	Inverter Integration	х	Х			
	Other BOS					
System Engineering & Integration	System Engr. & Integration		Х			
	System Manufacturing/Assembly					
	Installation Maintenance		Х			
	•	•				
Deployment Facilitation			Х			
	•	•			/\ G	

The GreenRay Team

GreenRay is leading the team

Our key partners:

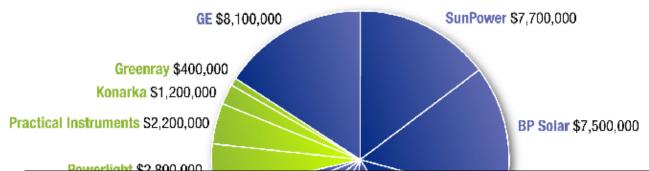
- World class PV module manufacturer
- PV installers
- Electric utilities
- Sandia, NREL, SWRES, SERES



Budget Summary







GreenRay, Inc.							
Award Date	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Total			
July 2007	\$1.04M	\$1.15M	\$2.85M	\$5.04M			

Dow Chemical \$3,300,000

Miasole \$5,800,000

Subsystems Total: \$6,600,000

Total Funding: **\$51,600,000**

Systems Total: **\$45,000,000**



Development Activity

Innovative Micro-Inverter

Frame and Mounting System

Data Communication Elements



Micro-Inverter

Accomplishments

- Reviewed AC module history
- Thermal issues analyzed; outdoor experiments conducted; thermal environment of a PV module characterized
- Design study completed; approach selected;
- Alpha prototype fabricated in desired form factor for optimum integration and heat rejection
- Design reviews completed reliability, emissions, construction, etc.
- Bench testing underway









Micro-Inverter

Next Steps

- Tweak the design; fabricate Beta version
- Sequence of thermal and electrical stress tests
- Operational testing to standards
- Accelerated lifetime testing



Frame and Mounting System

Accomplishments

- Stakeholder input and concept review
- Innovative frame and mounting system design developed;
 IP generated
- SLA prototypes fabricated for form and fit evaluation

Next Steps

- Fabricate Alpha prototypes
- Full-scale tests
- Stakeholder review



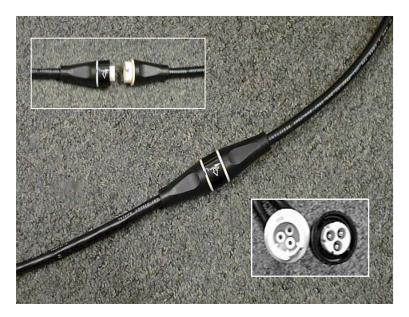
Plug and Play Wiring

Accomplishments

 Design and engineering of components underway

Next Steps

- Fabricate prototypes
- Evaluation and review with stakeholders
- Finalize, obtain certification



Quick Connectors from an early AC Module circa 1998



Data and Communications

Accomplishments

- Specifications created for data communications in the AC Module System
- Technology options researched; design approach developed; IP secured
- Communications circuitry incorporated in Alpha microinverter

Next Steps

Communications demonstrated in lab



Looking Ahead...FY 08/09

Key Challenge

 Develop a reliable micro-inverter that can withstand the harsh thermal environment under a PV module

Main Activities

- Finalize all elements of the AC Module System
- Testing, testing and more testing
- Behind-the-fence demos
- Plan for manufacture and market launch

