

# Microgrids keep the power on when it matters

Microgrids are stand-alone electrical power systems that consist of two or more generating assets and dedicated loads that can operate autonomously or "islanded", from the utility grid. At the heart of such a system is an intelligent microgrid controller with standardized communications that enables easy system configuration, commissioning and future adapt-ability to changing system assets.

### Eaton's solution: The Power Xpert Microgrid Controller

Our years of experience in automation and control for mission-critical microgrid applications molded the architecture for the Power Xpert<sup>™</sup> microgrid controller—a controller built on utility-grade hardware that provides a reliable, intelligent, and scalable control platform. Deployable as grid connected or an isolated power system, large or small, the Power Xpert Microgrid Controller is up to the task.

The controller maintains overall system stability regulating power flow and monitoring protection schemes in real-time; while dynamically managing generating assets and loads to meet user defined goals. Users can set control strategies to enhance resiliency, maximize renewables, reduce utility charges or combinations of prioritized strategies.

The Power Xpert Microgrid Controller's modular architecture allows it to easily scale to any application. Supporting more than 80 industrial communication protocols the controller can be configured to manage any generation, control, or measurement asset.

## Eaton's Power Xpert Microgrid Controller is the brains of the microgrid



## The details

#### Local and system controllers

An optimized combination of local and system control is used to integrate generating and load management assets. The local controller provides semiautonomous and fast device control, maintains operation within connected equipment limits, provides local sequencing and alarm management and includes an integrated sequence of events recorder. The Power Xpert Microgrid Controller can include local controllers for:

- Energy storage
- Photovoltaics
- Generators
- Load management
- Utility interconnection
- Fuel cells
- Other renewable generation resources

A system controller interfaces with upstream SCADA and optimizes the operation of power system assets (sources and loads) through the downstream local controllers. The system controller can support various system-wide applications such as optimal source dispatching, demand control, renewable firming and more.

#### Local HMI and historian

The Eaton Power Xpert Microgrid Controller's humanmachine interface (HMI) provides system configuration, device monitoring and application control functionality. It's optional integrated historian continuously monitors system performance and collects detailed operational history.

While the server-based historian is a significant element of the control system, the balance of



Scan or click here for our Power Xpert Microgrid Controller product specification Navigate to section 26-37-00 the control system can continue to operate independent of the server (during server upgrade, maintenance or outage).

#### Configured programming

Eaton's solution focuses on configured rather than custom programming and is built around the utility-proven SMP family of controllers, server and I/O modules coupled with Eaton's Yukon Visual T&D HMI products.

By design, the latest utility cybersecurity features and safeguards are embedded into each system device. For ease of configuration and maintenance, the Eaton Power Xpert Microgrid Controller is based on open standards including IEC 61850 communications.

#### Modular and scalable

A modular approach is used with each asset type configured to a standard template. Each template includes the control functions, alarms, and measurement values for integration and implementation. This modular architecture allows the controller to be efficiently scaled for the application and adapted to changing generation assets and loads.

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## **Control functions**

## Automated system sequencing and coordination:

sequencing and coordination: Coordinates sequencing for the system components in response to user commands, system status, limits or faults.

#### **Common control strategies**

- Renewable firming
- Peak shaving
- Islanding
- Frequency regulation



Example summary control screen

Active control functions: Provides multiple modes of operation with well-defined transitions between modes.

**Data logging:** The data log is a true historian, providing a complete record of all system data, alarms, operator actions and events with millisecond time tagging.



Provides alarms at the system and local levels with access to alarm-event management.

**Comprehensive alarm and event processing:** Alarms and events are available via HMI and remotely via web browser. Customized notification of significant alarms and events is also available.

#### Graphical system display

**and control:** Interactive diagrams to monitor status and operate the system.

#### **Optional features**

The Power Xpert Microgrid Controller provides additional significant functionality:

- Automatic retrieval and processing of event files from digital fault recorders and relays
- Integration and secure configuration management of all intelligent connected devices
- Enhanced secure passthrough access to connected devices through server; adds session logging, automatic password login and rolebased access
- Secure Authentication V5 between system controller and upstream SCADA





## Why Eaton?

Over the last decade, Eaton has successfully applied its power systems and automation expertise to design, implement, and control microgrid systems from highly complex to more basic applications. With experience spanning a wide range of industries we understand the inherent electrical operation and control challenges of microgrids and can work with you to design a system to meet your needs. Our power system experts have developed unique optimization strategies for microgrids that maximize resiliency, efficiency, and sustainability.



## **Field services**

Eaton has one of the largest and most experienced teams of power system engineers, field technicians and customer support engineers in the industry—strategically positioned across North America for rapid, dedicated local support to keep you up and running



## **Turnkey electrical solutions**

Studies and modeling

resiliency to techno-economic analysis.

With complete end-to-end service capability and application expertise, Eaton's team of project engineers can design and manage your microgrid project from initial concept and design to a completed turnkey project including ongoing operations and maintenance.



# Cybersecurity features

Eaton's Power Xpert Microgrid Controller leverages our proven utility-grade, substation automation hardware with integral advanced cybersecurity features that keep your microgrid protected from evolving threats.

Our experienced power systems engineers produce a suite of studies and models for building the most capable microgrid and efficient power management system. System studies range from DER sizing and site



Factory installation and testing of the microgrid controller into Eaton's Pow-R-Line switchboard as an integrated solution ensures interoperability and expedited on-site commissioning.





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