

ENERGY STORAGE Inspection

Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft Berlin

University of Applied Sciences



Research study

Energy Storage Inspection 2025

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Web solar.htw-berlin.de/inspection

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Manufacturers who participated in the Energy Storage Inspection 2025



All test results can be found here: solar.htw-berlin.de/inspection



Energy Storage Inspection 2025: The efficiency benchmark of 21 PV-battery systems is based on the System Performance Index SPI. All test results can be found here: solar.htw-berlin.de/inspection



	ENERGY STORAGE New participants with Inspection 2025 outstanding efficiency	SPI (10 kW)
A	FRONIUS Symo GEN24 12.0 Plus SC and BYD Battery-Box HVS 12.8	95.2 %
A	Image: Weight of the second state o	95.1 %
A	Image: Fox ESS H3-10.0-Smart and ECS2900-H6	94.8 %
B	PV-battery system from an anonymously participating manufacturer	0% STORAGE
B	PV-battery system from an anonymously participating manufacturer	% 2025

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All test results can be found here: solar.htw-berlin.de/inspection

Significant differences of the conversion efficiency during discharging



Large differences in efficiency between hybrid inverters



Note: The efficiency of hybrid inverters depends on the battery voltage, which varied between 195 V and 520 V depending on the system. Data: AIT and KIT. All results from HTW Berlin and the Energy Storage Inspection 2025 can be found here: solar.htw-berlin.de/inspection © solar.htw-berlin.de

Home energy management systems of six manufacturers under study





If a lithium-ion-battery spends less time fully charged, ageing effects slow down.

Data: Measurement of a 7-kWh-battery over 240 hours with different energy management strategies. All results of the energy management test of KIT and HTW Berlin can be found in the Energy Storage Inspection 2025: solar.htw-berlin.de/inspection



Features of an outstanding PV-battery system energy management

Prosumers with PV systems should have a battery that...



delays charging in the morning on sunny days.



- 🔲 charges around noon to mitigate solar generation peaks.



reaches the fully charged state in the afternoon rather than early in the day.



minimizes dwell time spent at a high state of charge to reduce battery ageing.



updates its charging schedule regularly.



- quickly responds to fluctuations in solar generation and residential load.
- % ☐ provides an accurate state of charge estimate to the energy management system.



Main topics of the Energy Storage Inspection 2025



Comparison of the system properties based on the test reports according to the Efficiency Guideline

Simulation-based assessment of the PV-battery systems with the System Performance Index (SPI)

Comparison of forecast-based energy management strategies of multiple PV-battery systems







Main topics of the Energy Storage Inspection 2025

1	Analysis of the German market for residential PV-battery systems	
2	Comparison of the system properties based on the test reports according to the Efficiency Guideline	
3	Simulation-based assessment of the PV-battery systems with the System Performance Index (SPI)	
4	Comparison of forecast-based energy management strategies of multiple PV-battery systems	



1) Battery systems with a capacity under 20 kWh. 2) PV systems with a nominal power between 2 kW and 20 kW. Data: German Federal Network Agency (BNetzA), German Federal Motor Transport Authority (KBA), German Heat Pump Association, Federal Statistical Office



Development of the PV-battery market in Germany



15 Data: German Federal Network Agency, February 1, 2025

The residential PV market in Germany



16 Data: German Federal Network Agency, class width: 4 kW, February 1, 2025

Rated power of the PV-systems between 4 kW and 20 kW



The residential battery system market in Germany



18 Data: German Federal Network Agency, class width: 4 kWh, February 1, 2025



Usable capacity of the battery systems between 4 kWh and 20 kWh



System topologies of the PV-battery systems in Germany





Main topics of the Energy Storage Inspection 2025



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Participants of the Energy Storage Inspection 2025

- For the eighth consecutive year, all manufacturers of systems or components for solar electricity storage in residential buildings were invited to participate in the Energy Storage Inspection 2025.
- 17 manufacturers took part in the Energy Storage Inspection 2025 with laboratory measurements from a total of 22 systems.
- Two of those systems were purchased independently.
- Five manufacturers decided to participate anonymously.
- The following 12 manufacturers are contributing to greater transparency in the home storage market by participating by name.



Analysis of system properties according to the Efficiency Guideline

- Laboratory tests were conducted by independent testing institutes following the "Efficiency Guideline for PV Storage Systems".
- To each analyzed system, a **system abbreviation** (e.g. A1) was assigned.
- The batteries of the AC-coupled systems A1 and C1 are equipped with battery inverters. The DC-coupled systems C2 to M1 have so-called hybrid inverters. System N1 is just a battery.
- Details about the methodology can be found in the Energy Storage Inspections 2018 and 2023.



A1 ENERGY STORAGE Inspection 2025		B1 ENERGY STORAGE Inspection 2025			C1 ENERGY STORAGE Inspection 2025			
VARTA pulse neo 6		SAX Power Home Plus			KOSTAL PLENTICORE BI G BYD Battery-Box Premium	2 10/26 and HVS 12.8		
Battery connection	AC	Battery connection	AC		Battery connection	AC		
Battery Capacity	5.8 kWh	Battery Capacity	6.2 kWh		Battery Capacity	12.0 kWh		
Discharge power	2.3 kW	Discharge power	4.6 kW		Discharge power	10.1 kW		
PV output power	-	PV output power	-		PV output power	-		
Efficiency class	В	Efficiency class	В		Efficiency class	В		





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KOSTAL PLENTICORE plus G2 10 and BYD Battery-Box Premium HVS 12.8

Battery connection	DC
Battery Capacity	11.9 kWh
Discharge power	6.3 kW
PV output power	10.0 kW
Efficiency class	Α

ENERGY STORAGE 🖶 Inspectiqn 2025 **KOSTAL PLENTICORE** plus G2 10 and **DYNESS** Tower T14 **Battery connection** DC **Battery Capacity** 13.5 kWh **Discharge power** 4.8 kW **PV** output power 10.0 kW **Efficiency class** В





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KOSTAL PLENTICORE G3 M 10 and BYD Battery-Box Premium HVS 12.8				
Battery connection	DC			
Battery Capacity	11.9 kWh			
Discharge power	10.1 kW			
PV output power	10.0 kW			
Efficiency class	Α			





FRONIUS Primo GEN24 6.0 Plus and BYD Battery-Box Premium HVS 7.7

Battery connection	DC
Battery Capacity	7.4 kWh
Discharge power	5.8 kW
PV output power	6.1 kW
Efficiency class	Α







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Battery connection	DC
Battery Capacity	12.0 kWh
Discharge power	11.1 kW
PV output power	12.1 kW
Efficiency class	Α

E1 ENERGY Inspec	Y STORAGE tiqn 2025
RCT POWER Power Stor Power Battery 7.6	age DC 6.0 and
Battery connection	DC
Battery Capacity	7.0 kWh
Discharge power	5.9 kW
PV output power	5.9 kW



H1 ENERGY	STORAGE iqn 2025	I1 ENEI Insp	RGY STORAGE Dectiqn 2025		ENERGY Inspect	STORAG
FOX ESS H3-10.0-Smart a	nd ECS2900-H6	DC-coupled system	n of an anonymously	DC	-coupled system of ar	n anonymousl
		participating manu	ifacturer	pa	rticipating manufactu	rer
Battery connection	DC	Battery connectio	n DC	Ba	ttery connection	DC
Battery Capacity	16.0 kWh	Battery Capacity	13.5 kWh	Ba	ttery Capacity	10.3 kV
Discharge power	9.8 kW	Discharge power	9.1 kW	Dis	scharge power	10.0 kV
PV output power	9.9 kW	PV output power	10.2 kW	PV	output power	9.9 kW
Efficiency class	Α	Efficiency class	В	Eff	iciency class	В

K1 ENERGY STORA Inspection 20	AGE 025	L1 ENERGY STORAGE Inspection 2025		M LENERGY STORAGE Inspection 2025		
?.		2.		?.		
DC-coupled system of an anonymo participating manufacturer	DC-couple purchased	DC-coupled system purchased independently		DC-coupled system purchased independently		
Battery connection DC	Battery co	onnection	DC	Battery connection	DC	
Battery Capacity 14.	2 kWh Battery Ca	apacity	8.9 kWh	Battery Capacity	9.8 kWh	
Discharge power 8.9	kW Discharge	power	4.3 kW	Discharge power	4.8 kW	
PV output power 10.	2 kW PV output	power	9.8 kW	PV output power	10.0 kW	
Efficiency class D	Efficiency	class	D	Efficiency class	G	



System abbreviations

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System	Product name
A1	VARTA pulse neo 6
B1	SAX Power Home Plus
C1	KOSTAL PLENTICORE BI G2 10/26 and BYD Battery-Box Premium HVS 12.8
C2	KOSTAL PLENTICORE plus G2 5.5 and BYD Battery-Box Premium HVS 7.7
C3	KOSTAL PLENTICORE plus G2 10 and BYD Battery-Box Premium HVS 12.8
C4	KOSTAL PLENTICORE plus G2 10 and DYNESS Tower T14
C5	KOSTAL PLENTICORE plus G2 10 and PYLONTECH Force H2
C6	KOSTAL PLENTICORE G3 M 10 and BYD Battery-Box Premium HVS 12.8
D1	FRONIUS Primo GEN24 6.0 Plus and BYD Battery-Box Premium HVS 7.7
D2	FRONIUS Symo GEN24 10.0 Plus and BYD Battery-Box Premium HVS 10.2
D3	FRONIUS Symo GEN24 12.0 Plus SC and BYD Battery-Box Premium HVS 12.8

System abbreviations

System	Product name
E1	RCT POWER Power Storage DC 6.0 and Power Battery 7.6
E2	RCT POWER Power Storage DC 10.0 and Power Battery 11.5
F1	GOODWE GW10K-ET-20 and LX F16.0-H-20
G1	ENERGY DEPOT Centurio 10 and DOMUS 2.5
H1	FOX ESS H3-10.0-Smart and ECS2900-H6
I1	DC-coupled system of an anonymously participating manufacturer
J1	DC-coupled system of an anonymously participating manufacturer
Kl	DC-coupled system of an anonymously participating manufacturer
L1	DC-coupled system purchased independently
M1	DC-coupled system purchased independently
Nl	MIBA VOLTHOME #03

Nominal and usable battery capacity in comparison



- Reserve to prevent deep discharge
- Reserve for ageing and safety

35



0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%



The permissible state of charge (SOC) range is restricted to prevent deep discharge of the battery and to account for aging and safety reserves. The values shown in the illustration are exemplary.

Usable battery capacity of the analyzed systems



Systems E1, E2, I1 and N1: Due to a temperature-induced derating, the test could not be run at 100 % of the nominal power.
Comparison of data sheet specification and tested value

- For 15 of the 22 systems tested, lower usable storage capacities were determined in the laboratory test than those declared on the data sheets.
- A lower **depth of discharge (DOD)**, which protects the battery against deep discharge, is often the reason for the measured values being lower.
- The usable storage capacity of system B1 is **11** percentage points below the value specified on the data sheet.





Nominal discharge power of the analyzed systems



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Average battery efficiency



Systems E1, E2, I1 and N1: Due to a temperature-induced derating, the test could not be run at 100 % of the nominal power.

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Energy conversion pathways of the different system topologies



Average conversion efficiency of AC battery discharging



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Average efficiency of the energy conversion pathways

	PV2AC	PV2BAT	AC2BAT	BAT2AC	
A -1					98 %
A1			92.1 %	92.0 %	
B1			96.0 %	98.0 %	
C1			96.1 %	96.3 %	97 %
C2	95.5 %	93.9 %		93.9 %	
C3	96.3 %	95.8 %		95.8 %	
C4	96.3 %	94.6 %		94.7 %	- 96 % D
C5	96.3 %	94.6 %		94.7 %	Ū.
C6	96.9 %	98.2 %		96.9 %	j j
D1	96.6 %	96.8 %	95.6 %	95.8 %	- 95 % [©]
F D2	97.9 %	97.9 %	96.5 %	97.2 %	Lo Lo
0 D3	97.4 %	98.0 %		97.4 %	N. NO LO
5 E1	96.4 %	94.7 %	94.0 %	94.3 %	94 % Đ
ທີ E2	97.9 %	98.1 %	97.7 %	97.8 %	
F1	96.7 %	96.4 %		96.0 %	
G1	97.1 %	97.4 %	96.9 %	96.8 %	95 /0 0
Η1	96.1 %	96.9 %	96.3 %	96.8 %	De
I1	97.1 %	96.2 %		96.2 %	- 92 %
]1	96.1 %	95.6 %		96.1 %	
K1	96.3 %	95.8 %		96.0 %	4
11	95.9 %	92.0 %		91.2 %	- 91 %
M1	95.4 %	95.0 %		95.6 %	
Ø	96.6 %	96.0 %	95 7 %	95.7 %	
Q	PV feed-in	PV charging	AC charging	AC discharging	90 %
	Conversion pathway		© solar.h	ntw-berlin.de	

42 Average pathway efficiencies according to the "Efficiency Guideline for PV Storage Systems" 2.0.

PV feed-in pathway efficiency



43 W1 and W2: PV inverter used for assessing the AC-coupled systems with the SPI (5 kW) and SPI (10 kW).

PV battery charging pathway efficiency



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AC battery charging pathway efficiency



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AC battery discharging pathway efficiency



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Comparison of data sheet specification and tested value



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Newcomer: battery system with multi-level-technology



In order to be able to test the SAX Power Home Plus system at all, the KIT had to place a total of 24 DC measuring transformers between the electronics board and the 24 battery cell strings. In each battery cell string, 5 LFP battery cells with a capacity of 20 Ah are connected in series, resulting in a nominal voltage of 16 V per cell string (image: KIT).

Newcomer: battery system with multi-level-technology

- The system concept of the storage system Power Home Plus from SAX Power differs significantly from the system concepts of other manufacturers. The storage system is based on the so-called multi-level-technology.
- Five battery cells are connected in series to form a cell pack with a voltage of 16 V and are connected to a separate power electronics unit, which is known as an H-bridge.
- The cell packs are connected in series via the **H-bridge**.
- To achieve the necessary peak voltage of 325 V, 20 of the 24 cell packs must be charged or discharged via the H-bridges.
- The individual cell packs are activated and deactivated with a time delay. This
 allows a staircase-shaped sinusoidal voltage curve to be generated at the output
 of the battery system

Typical load profile of residential households

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Central value (median) of the daily course of the household load of the 28 single-family houses examined. Time resolution: 15 min. Daten: Schlemminger et al. - Dataset on electrical single family house and heat pump load profiles in Germany.

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Partial load efficiencies of an inefficient hybrid inverter



51 Average frequency distribution of the nighttime electricity consumption of different households based on 10 s measurement data. Class width: 50 W, data: Schlemminger et al. - Dataset on electrical single-family houses and heat pump load profiles in Germany.

Efficiencies of hybrid inverters at a household load of 100 watts



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Partial load efficiencies of different hybrid inverters



Dynamic control deviations of a slow battery system



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Dynamic control deviations: dead and settling time



Stationary control deviations



Standby power consumption with discharged battery



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Standby power consumption with fully charged battery





Main topics of the Energy Storage Inspection 2025



Comparison of the system properties based on the test reports according to the Efficiency Guideline

Simulation-based assessment of the PV-battery systems with the System Performance Index (SPI)

Comparison of forecast-based energy management strategies of multiple PV-battery systems

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Methodology of the simulation-based system evaluation

- **Simulation of the behavior** of the tested PV-battery systems over a year.
- The System Performance Index (SPI) is used to evaluate the systems based on the energy flows at the grid connection point. It considers the different economic values of the energy fed into the grid at 0.08 €/kWh and the energy supplied by the grid at 0.4 €/kWh.
- Parameterization of the simulation model <u>"PerMod</u>" (version 2.2) based on the laboratory measurement results determined following the efficiency guideline.
- Including the sizing, conversion, control, and standby losses measured by the institutes.



System Performance Index SPI (5 kW) and SPI (10 kW)

1st reference case for the System Performance Index SPI (5 kW)



2nd reference case for the System Performance Index SPI (10 kW)



Please note: SPI (5 kW) and SPI (10 kW) are not comparable due to the different characteristics of the two reference cases.

Assignment of the systems to the reference cases

- Depending on the size of the power electronics and battery storage, the efficiency rating is conducted with the SPI (5 kW) or SPI (10 kW).
- Only systems with a usable capacity below 8.0 kWh were rated with the SPI (5 kW).
- For a rating with the SPI (10 kW), a usable capacity below 16.0 kWh was required.
- The classification was based on the usable storage capacity determined in the laboratory test.
- 5 systems were rated with the SPI (5 kW), and 16 systems were assessed with the SPI (10 kW).



Systems rated with the System Performance Index (SPI)

A1 VARTA pulse neo 6

- **B1** SAX Power Home Plus
- C1 KOSTAL PLENTICORE BI G2 10/26 and BYD Battery-Box HVS 12.8
- C2 KOSTAL PLENTICORE plus G2 5.5 and BYD Battery-Box HVS 7.7
- C3 KOSTAL PLENTICORE plus G2 10 and BYD Battery-Box HVS 12.8
- C4 KOSTAL PLENTICORE plus G2 10 and DYNESS Tower T14
- C5 KOSTAL PLENTICORE plus G2 10 and PYLONTECH Force H2
- C6 KOSTAL PLENTICORE G3 M 10 and BYD Battery-Box HVS 12.8

- **D1** FRONIUS Primo GEN24 6.0 Plus and BYD Battery-Box HVS 7.7
- D2 FRONIUS Symo GEN24 10.0 Plus and BYD Battery-Box HVS 10.2
- **D3** FRONIUS Symo GEN24 12.0 Plus SC and BYD Battery-Box HVS 12.8
- **E1** RCT POWER Power Storage DC 6.0 and Power Battery 7.6
- E2 RCT POWER Power Storage DC 10.0 and Power Battery 11.5
- F1 GOODWE GW10K-ET-20 and LX F16.0-H-20
- **G1** ENERGY DEPOT Centurio 10 and DOMUS 2.5
- H1 FOX ESS H3-10.0-Smart and ECS2900-H6



Low efficiency reduces energy fed in and increases grid consumption



Example for determining the System Performance Index (SPI)



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Loss analysis of the systems assessed with the SPI (5 kW)



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Loss analysis of the systems assessed with the SPI (10 kW)



Definition of the efficiency classes for PV-battery systems

 Due to the different SPI values, the threshold values for reaching the individual efficiency classes vary.

Class	Rating	SPI (5 kW)	SPI (10 kW)
Α	very good	≥ 92.5 %	≥ 94.5 %
В	very good	≥ 90.5 %	≥ 93.5 %
С	good	≥ 88.5 %	≥ 92.5 %
D	good	≥ 86.5 %	≥ 91.5 %
E	in need of improvement	≥ 84.5 %	≥ 90.5 %
F	in need of improvement	≥ 82.5 %	≥ 89.5 %
G	inadequate	< 82.5 %	< 89.5 %

SPI (5 kW) and efficiency classes of the analyzed systems



70 The AC-coupled systems A1 and B1 were assessed in combination with the PV inverter SMA Sunny Boy 5.0.

Influence of different losses on the SPI (5 kW)

Battery system with multilevel-topology: SAX Power Home Plus



71 The AC-coupled system B1 was assessed in combination with the PV inverter SMA Sunny Boy 5.0.

SPI (10 kW) and efficiency classes of the analyzed systems


Influence of different losses on the SPI (10 kW)

Less efficient system with DC coupled battery storage



Why is a high system efficiency important?

- Efficiency losses reduce the potential savings of a PV-battery system. The economic losses for the systems evaluated with the SPI (10 kW) lay between 94 €/a and 276 €/a.
- Households that choose a highly efficient PV-battery system can save up to an additional 1820 € within the first ten years of operation compared to a less efficient system.



74 Highly efficient system: E2, less efficient system: M1, framework conditions of the 2nd reference case.

Summary of the results of the system evaluation

- The Energy Storage Inspection 2025 analyzed and compared the energy efficiency of 21 battery systems.
- In the reference case up to 5 kW, a DC-coupled system from RCT Power came out on top with an SPI (5 kW) of 92.6 %.
- It was closely followed by the hybrid inverters FRONIUS Primo GEN24 6.0 Plus and KOSTAL PLENTICORE plus G2 5.5, both of which competed in combination with the BYD Battery-Box Premium HVS 7.7.
- The system Power Storage DC 10.0 and Power Battery 11.5 from RCT Power achieved the highest SPI (10 kW) with a value of 96.4 %.
- 18 of the 21 systems tested scored with a very good system efficiency and achieved either the efficiency classes A or B.
- However, the range of system efficiency is still very wide the least efficient system only achieved the efficiency class G.

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