Software and Monitoring

Software products for system planning, yield assessments and plant monitoring now have a permanent place in the Intersolar range. In addition to updates and further developments of established software products, there are innovations such as those from system providers that support their customers with a number of tools – here are some examples:

More flexibility, individual yield calculations and a direct data interface to the special PV testing equipment “PROFITEST PV Tech” and “PROFITEST PV Xtra” were integrated into the new version 7.3 of their photovoltaics planning software DDS-CAS PV by the software producer Data Design System (DDS). As an independent special solution, the software allows for the design, calculation, visualisation and documentation of in-roof, roof-mounted, façade-mounted and ground-mounted PV systems. Its functions include sun tracking and shading simulations as well as yield calculations. In addition to visual planning and simulation, the user can create various documentations, such as parts and material lists, installation plans and various system diagrams.

DDS-CAD PV draws upon on the established Polysun simulation software for the inverter configuration and yield forecasts. To this end, Polysun was fully integrated into DDS-CAD PV and contains a comprehensive database of the characteristics of PV modules and inverters. The software also features a new interface for the photovoltaic testing equipment “PROFITEST PV Tech” and “PROFITEST PV Xtra” from Gossen Metrawatt. According to the manufacturer, this interface allows for the direct transfer of DDS-CAD planning data to the existing testing device, thus making manual data entry obsolete. In addition to pure PV system design, there are also DDS-CAD packages available for planning the further electrical installation. The DDS trade fair team performs daily demonstrations and detailed, individual single-user presentations for trade fair visitors.

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The DDS-CAD display mode “photorealistic” offers a visual impression of the project and also allows for an analysis of the shading caused by interfering objects.

Graphic: DDS
The matter is: it is not only a matter of exterior. Trienergia know-how has developed modules which combine the purest and finest design with excellent technical features: great modularity, excellent compatibility, higher installed power. From now on, you can look at roofing with new eyes: photovoltaic modules are not all the same. Since when technology meets design, the structure of a project becomes winning both in form and substance. Trienergia modules triangular shape is the product of a bright coming from simple intuition. In fact, traditional rectangular modules hardly harmonically insert on roofs design. Whereas on the other hand, a triangle modules provides for a wider range of solutions, adding value to your projects both on the aesthetic and on the functional point of view.
With the online tool “Centrocheck” every PV project can be planned and documented in detail.

**Centrosolar with free planning tool**

With “Centrocheck“, German Centrosolar AG is bringing the first free online tool to the market that will allow for the precise and detailed individual planning of photovoltaic systems based on Centrosolar modules: from assembly drawings and inverter configuration to realistic yield forecasts. According to the company, Centrocheck provides all the data required for planning, construction and commissioning of a photovoltaic system. Users can choose between two basic settings: the short version, ideal for end customers, relies on pre-set values for all calculations. In expert mode, solar professionals can enter all the parameters individually so that every project can be planned and documented in detail. In addition to roof and inverter planning, Centrocheck allows for a review of the profitability of the future solar energy system. If desired, a yield forecast can be provided. The online tool automatically generates the required project documentation. Centrocheck planning graphics in 3D can be rotated and it offers a zoom function.

Even interfering surfaces on the roof are taken into account, so the module configuration can be planned as precisely as possible. Those who do not wish to disclose their personal data can test Centrocheck anonymously with a limited version. The tool is fully available for logged in users. They can either save all project data to their own online directory, download it or print it out. Data transfer to Centrosolar for an automatic individual offer is possible as well. No installation is required on the user’s computer to use the planning tool. According to the company, all version updates take place directly and automatically, so only the latest data is used for planning.

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System far away …

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For the first time, Switzerland-based company Vela Solaris will present their new software Polysun Online for professionals. Polysun Online provides system manufacturers with invaluable support in improving their sales and is a chance for associations to gather a wider public interest in renewable energies. Polysun Online can be incorporated into existing websites, taking on the same look as the website. Business partners and end-customers can submit detailed requests using this online tool (including the Polysun report), a unique tool that enables them to reach the system manufacturer.

Polysun Online can be expanded to include parts lists and proposal preparation tools. Vela Solaris provides support in the form of consulting services, individual programming of the website as well as integration with in-house material management systems (different ERP systems).

Polysun Online is based on system templates created with Polysun Designer and tested by Vela Solaris. Basically, all design, yield and economic viability calculation functions provided by Polysun are also available in Polysun Online.

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Solution for remote control

The Italian company Telsa offers new solutions for remote control: on the one hand, Telsa present a wireless backbone for connectivity which allows reducing the expenditures incurred by the data logger, cabling and civil construction thanks to the free-to-use frequencies option. On the other hand, there are end-to-end solutions for centralised monitoring and remote controlling, which operate around alarm management, production monitoring and productivity time estimation.

For photovoltaic systems, Telsa present monitoring and remote controlling solutions. Telsa propose an end-to-end solution which is to take advantage of innovative broadband and Internet technologies. This solution should centralise the acquisition process, the data processing and real-time management of the information regarding the photovoltaic system performance. This solution for remote controlling and monitoring by Telsa is based on two main components: private broadband network for communication and a web portal for data.

Telsa also produce the following products to help PV market customers: TLog – a universal data logger, TString – a string monitor box with up to 32 strings, the TString add-on to allow for the upgrade of existing solar fields for telecontrolling and last but not least, TPortal – a management software portal.

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Photorealistic planning of PV systems

Version 4.5 of PV*SOL Pro, the simulation programme for the design and yield calculation of grid-connected and stand-alone photovoltaic systems from Valentin EnergieSoftware GmbH, will be launched in April 2011. The new version will feature Photo Plan, the integrated photo dimensioning programme. With a photo of the customer's house, the roof and the planned PV system is presented photorealistically, providing all the required dimensions. In addition to the photorealistic presentation of PV systems, PV*SOL Pro 4.5 will include the climate data module MeteoSyn with 8,000 global climate records. There also is the option to interpolate new sites using data from existing sites.

All products in the PV*SOL range include maintained module and inverter databases with data for around 6,600 modules and 1,600 inverters. According to Valentin Software, the automatic update function ensures that the databases are continuously updated and expanded. The module and inverter data is maintained online by the component manufacturers. The data is then reviewed by Valentin Software and regularly made available to PV*SOL users via the update function as part of our software maintenance service. PV*SOL is a multilingual programme offering the choice of five languages: English, Spanish, French, German and Italian.

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Jörn Iken
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