# Power protection vs. UPS topology



Power quality (PQ) is a significant challenge to those responsible for the management of electrical networks and Data Centre facilities.

The widespread use of and increasing dependence upon electronic equipment - such as information technology equipment, power electronics including programmable logic controllers (PLC) and energy-efficient lighting - have led to a complete transformation in the nature of electrical loads. These loads are both the major root causes of - and the major casualties of – power quality problems. Due to their non-linearity, all these loads cause disturbances in the voltage waveform.

Along with advances in technology, the organisation of the worldwide economy has evolved towards globalisation and the profit margins of many activities have seen a tendency to decrease.

The increased sensitivity of the vast majority of processes (industrial, services and even residential) to PQ problems means that the availability of high quality electric power is a crucial factor in terms of developing competitive advantage across every market sector.

It’s widely understood that mission-critical facilities must run continuously, and, of course, that any power interruption, even for a short time, can disrupt business operations and result in significant financial losses.

Although today’s Data Centres are all designed with a high level of inherent redundancy in order to minimise downtime, just as important as the mission-critical applications themselves, however, is the quality of the supplied power.

In order to achieve the delivery of consistent, high quality power, it is vital to understand the nature of PQ disturbances and their causes.

## What affects the power quality?

The most common disturbances that adversely affect the power quality are:

- power sags or outages due to network faults,
- short voltage variations due to the connection of heavy loads or the presence of faults in the network,
- distortion of currents and voltages due to non-linear loads present in the system or in the systems of other utilities, etc.
- flicker due to large intermittent loads,
- asymmetry in the supply voltage system.

## How to ensure the power quality: the UPS

Modern technology offers various solutions to ensure the power quality; static UPS systems are undoubtedly the most versatile and widely used and can be adopted for a very broad range of power ratings.

In response to the need to classify the various types of static UPS systems currently available on the market, the standard EN 62040-3 was developed. It distinguishes between three major topologies, according to the internal schemes adopted:

- VFD "offline"
  Voltage and Frequency Dependent - Utilities are normally powered by the mains supply. In the event of power loss the load is automatically switched over to a built-in battery to keep it supplied without interruptions.

- VI "line interactive"
  Voltage Independent - The load is supplied by the mains power supply and protected against under and over voltages by an AVR (Automatic Voltage Regulator) voltage stabilizer. If the mains power is lost, the load is instantaneously powered by the battery.

- VFI "online double conversion"
  Voltage and Frequency Independent - This is the only UPS working-mode that assures total load protection against all possible mains quality problems. The power is converted twice (AC to DC through a rectifier then DC to AC through an inverter) to provide high quality voltage, stable frequency and protection against power grid disturbances. If the mains power is lost, the load is powered exclusively by the battery. The internal bypass supplies the utilities in case of inverter output voltage anomalies.



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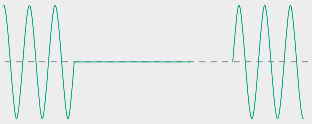
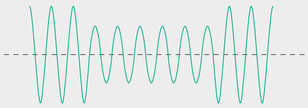
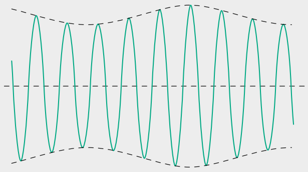
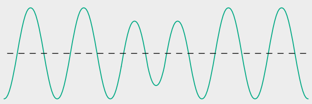
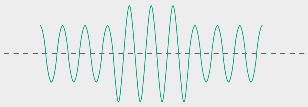
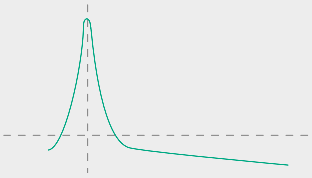
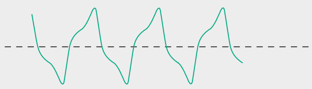
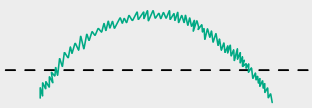
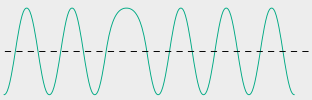
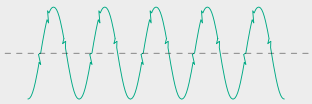
# Power protection vs. UPS topology

| Disturbance type | Wave form | Possibles causes | Consequence | UPS topology | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | VFD | VI | VFI |
| Voltage interruption |  | Mainly due to opening and automatic re-closure of protection devices to decommission a faulty network section. The main fault causes are insulation failure, lightning and insulator flashover. | Tripping of protection devices, loss of information and malfunction of data processing equipment. | • | • | • |
| Voltage sag/dip |  | Faults on the transmission, in distribution network, or in consumer's installation. Start-up loads. | Malfunction of IT equipment, safety systems, or lighting. Loss of data. System shutdown. | • | • | • |
| Voltage fluctuation |  | Transmitters (radio), faulty equipment, ineffective grounding, proximity to EMI/RFI source. | Most consequences are common to under-voltages. System halts, data loss. The visible consequence is the flickering of lighting and screens. | • | • | • |
| Under voltage |  | Increase of consumption, voltage reduction to lower the consumption. | System halts, data loss, stop of sensitive equipment | - | • | • |
| Voltage surge |  | Atmospheric, surges are due to lightning; Transient, surges are due to insulation faults between phase and earth or rupture of neutral conductor; Switching, surges are due to opening of protection devices, generated by energizing capacitor banks or caused by variations in inductive current. | Data loss, flickering of lighting and screens, stop or damage of sensitive equipment. | - | • | • |
| Voltage spike/ transient |  | Lightning, ESD, switching of lines or power factor correction capacitors, utility fault clearing. | Destruction of electronic components, data processing errors or data loss. | - | - | • |
| Harmonic distortion |  | Modern sources like all non-linear loads such as power electronics equipment including ASDs, switched mode power supplies, data processing equipment, high efficiency lighting. | Increased probability in occurrence of resonance, neutral overload in 3-phase systems, overheating of all cables and equipment, loss of efficiency in electric machines, electromagnetic interference with communication systems, errors in measures when using average reading meters, nuisance tripping of thermal protections. | - | - | • |
| Noise |  | Transmitters (radio), faulty equipment, ineffective grounding, proximity to EMI/RFI source. | Disturbances on sensitive electronic equipment, usually not destructive. May cause data loss and data processing errors. | - | - | • |
| Frequency variation |  | Unstable operating of the generator, unstable frequency of the utility power system. | System halts, data loss. | - | - | • |
| Notching |  | Fast switching of power components (diodes, SCR, etc.), rapid variation in the load current (welding machines, motors, lasers, capacitor banks, etc.). | System halts, data loss. | - | - | • |

# Solution to meet availability and flexible performance

Technology

Different configurations make it possible to create architectures to meet the most stringent requirements for availability, flexibility and energy saving and to allow the following:

### Easy operation

Given the criticality of applications supplied downstream from the UPS units, maintenance shutdowns are less and less feasible. Various different configurations have been studied specifically to deal with this operational constraint.

### Power increases

The upgrading over time of the applications supplied often requires the possibility of increasing UPS power. The configurations offered allow for this requirement so that your initial investment is saved.

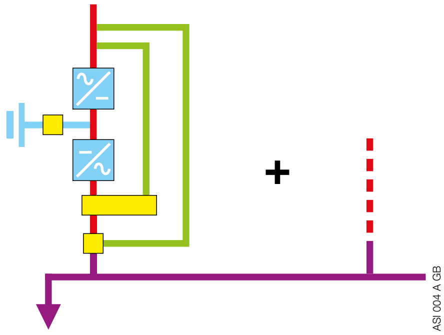
### Increases in availability

To increase availability, the addition of a unit in parallel that is surplus to the power requirements of the applications (redundant) will ensure a continuous power supply if an inverter shuts down, without resorting to a bypass.

## Stand-alone UPS unit

### An upgradeable solution

This architecture is secured by an integrated automatic bypass, which constitutes a first level of redundancy guaranteed by the network. The maintenance bypass function allows maintenance to be carried out without shutting down applications. It can be the first stage of your investment, with the possibility to upgrade, as your requirements change, to a modular parallel architecture to increase power or availability (redundancy).



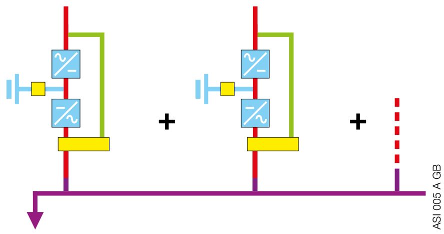

*Single unit with bypass or 1+1 redundant configuration*

## Parallel UPS systems

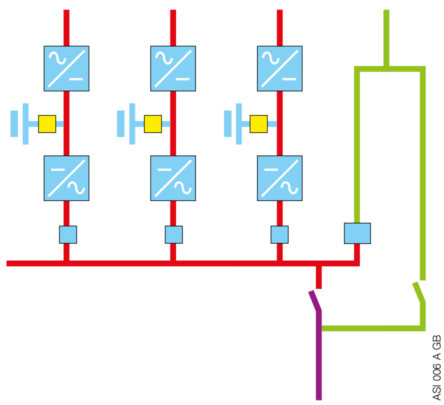
### Development without constraint

This is the simplest solution to ensure power supply availability and flexibility in case of unscheduled installation upgrades by means of the parallel configuration of the UPS units, each one incorporating its own bypass. This configuration enables power output to be increased and is suitable for N+1 redundancy. Upgrades can also be performed keeping the load supplied by the system.

For higher agility, parallel UPS systems are also available with a centralised bypass on the auxiliary power source: in this configuration, the static bypass is in parallel of the UPS modules and can be sized according to particular site constrains (short-circuit withstand, selectivity, etc.).




*Modular parallel UPS system with distributed bypass*




*Modular parallel UPS system with centralised bypass*



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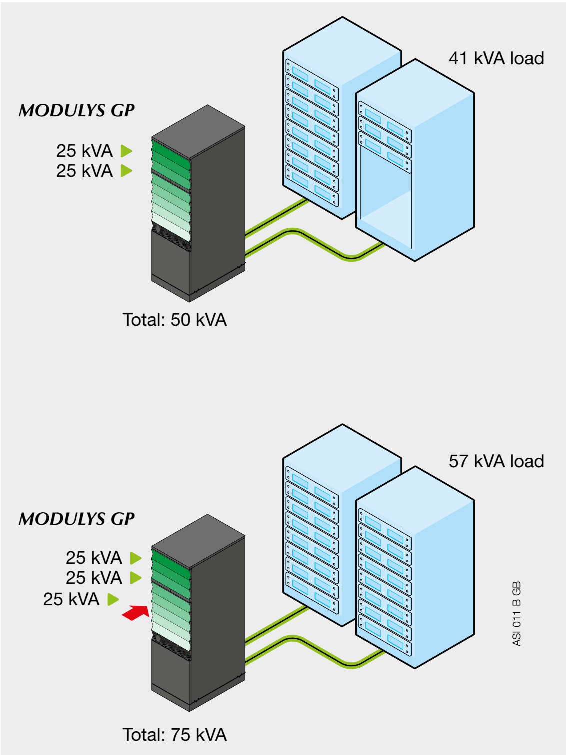
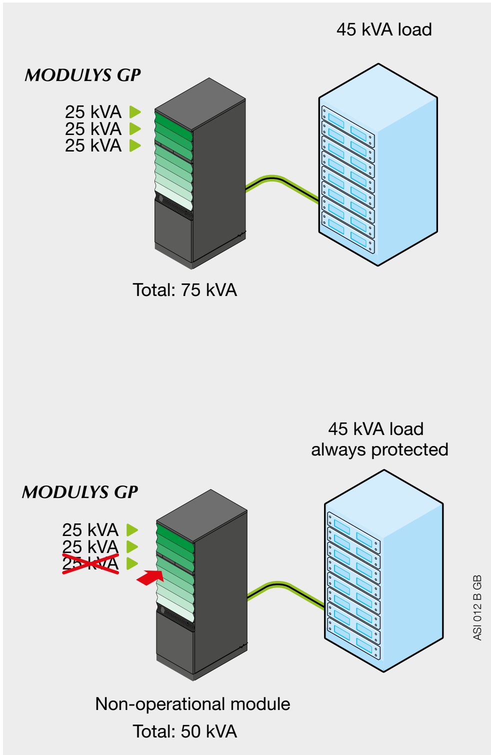
## Vertical and horizontal modular system

**Flexible and completely modular**

This is a new, innovative UPS concept that can adapt to all types of growth. Power can be increased by successively adding modules.
The increasing of availability (redundancy) is simply carried out by adding a module to the number required to meet the power requirements for the applications. All the modules are connectible (plug-in). Removal or adding of modules can be carried out with the system running (hot swap) without affecting the general operation of the installation.




*Scalable configuration*




*Scalable redundant configuration*

# Solution to meet availability and energy saving performance

Technology

## Green Power 2.0

**Energy Saving: high efficiency without compromise.**

- Offers the highest efficiency in the market using VFI – Double Conversion Mode, the only UPS working-mode that assures total load protection against all mains quality problems.
- Ultra high efficiency output independently tested and verified by an international certification organization
- Ultra high efficiency output tested and verified in a wide range of load and voltage operating conditions to have the value in the real site conditions.
- Ultra high efficiency in VFI mode is provided by an innovative topology (3-Level technology) that has been developed for all the Green Power 2.0 UPS ranges.

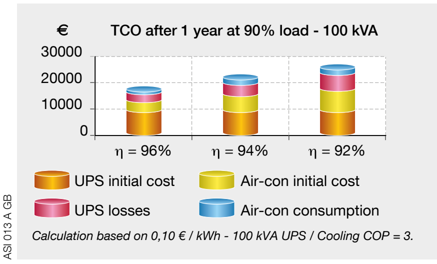
**Full-rated power: kW=kVA**

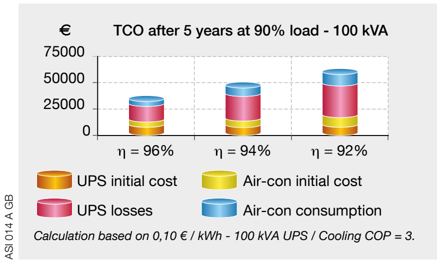
- No power downgrading when supplying the latest generation of servers (leading or unity power factor).
- Real full power, according to IEC 62040: kW=kVA (unity power factor design) means 25% more active power available compared to legacy UPS.
- Suitable also for leading power factor loads down to 0.9 without apparent power derating.

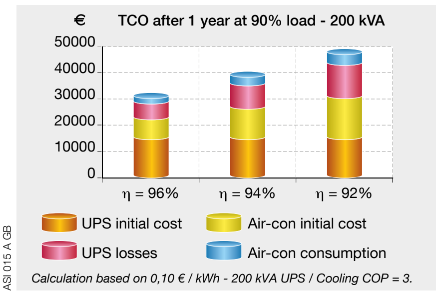
**Significant cost-saving (TCO)**

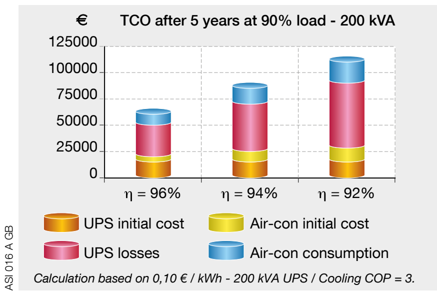
- Maximum energy saving thanks to 96% efficiency in true double conversion mode: 50% saving on energy losses compared to legacy UPS resulting in cheaper energy bills.
- UPS "self-paying" with energy saving.
- Energy Saver mode for global efficiency improvement on parallel systems.
- kW=kVA means maximum power available with the same UPS rating: no overdesign costs and therefore less €/kW.
- Upstream infrastructure cost optimization (sources and distribution), thanks to high performance IGBT rectifier.

## Advantages

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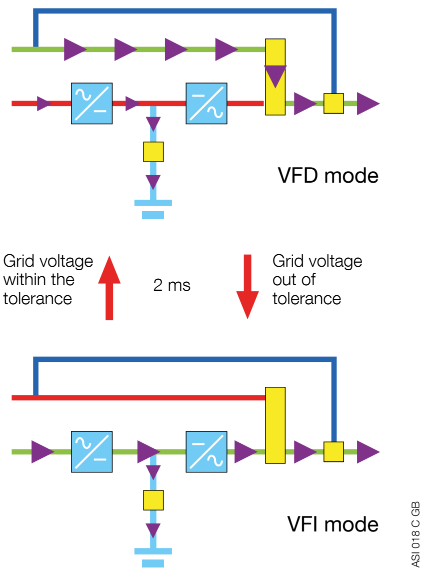
## Fast EcoMode

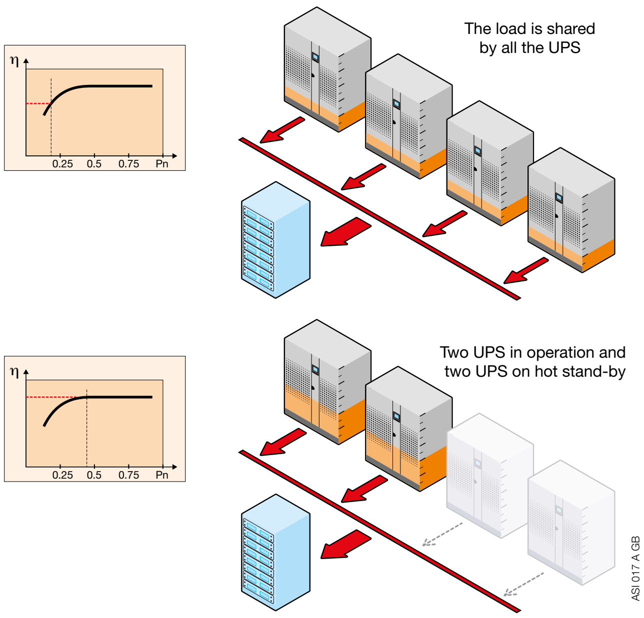
Available as an optional feature for the DELPHYS GP series, FAST EcoMode is an automatic operating mode that optimizes the efficiency depending on the quality of the input voltage (voltage, frequency, harmonic distortion). When the input voltage is within tolerances (value is settable), the load is supplied by the bypass (VFD mode) and the efficiency achieved is 99%. If the voltage becomes out of tolerances, the system instantaneously transfers the load to On-line mode until normal condition recovery

Batteries are permanently maintained under floating charging, maximizing battery lifetime and avoiding periodic restarts of the rectifier.




## Energy saver

- This function optimizes the efficiency (η) of your UPS in parallel when operating with a partial load.
- Only the UPS needed to supply the energy required by the applications are in operation.
- Redundancy can be ensured by maintaining an additional unit in operation.
- When the power consumed by the applications increases, the UPS units needed to meet the increased power requirements restart instantly.
- This type of operation is perfectly suited to applications subject to frequent variations in power.
- Energy Saver enables the increased efficiency of the whole system to be maintained.



# UPS technologies

## Transformer-based and transformerless technologies

The two main UPS technologies available on the market are:
- transformer-based, useful when primary and secondary sources come from different mains with different neutral systems,
- transformerless, which offers the advantages of high efficiencies combined with a low footprint.

Both of these technologies have their advantages and drawbacks. The challenge is to make the right compromise, taking into account site conditions with design constraints such as the footprint, neutral system, efficiency, short-circuit currents and so on. SOCOMEC can provide customers with either technology, depending on the requirement.

### A "clean" IGBT rectifier

This eliminates any disturbance on the upstream network (power source and distribution).
- This rectifier technology guarantees the supply of current with an exceptionally low rate of harmonic distortion: THDI < 2.5 %.

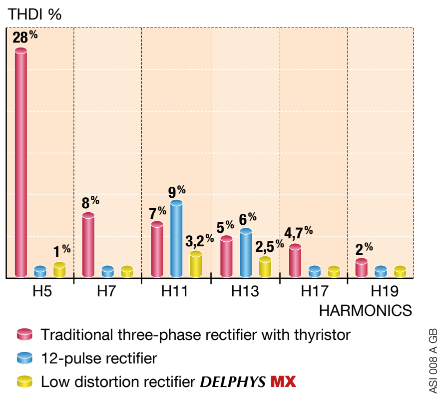
### A consistent rectifier

- The performance of the IGBT rectifier is independent of frequency variations that could be produced by the generator set.
- The power factor and THDI at the rectifier input are constant whatever the battery charge status (continuous voltage level) and the load rate of the UPS.

### An economical IGBT rectifier

- The power factor upstream of the rectifier is 0.99, reducing by 30% the used kVA compared with conventional technology. The reduction in input current results in a saving in terms of the size of sources, cables and protective devices.
- Rectifier capabilities:
  - low upstream THDI,
  - gradual, timed restarting,
  - possibility of suspending battery recharge when operating with a generator set.
- This allows the impact caused when the generator set is engaged to be reduced, as well as the energy used and the footprint.

DELPHYS MX guarantees optimal compatibility with your low voltage electrical power supply system and, in particular, with your generator sets:
- sinusoidal current at rectifier THDI input: < 4.5 % without filter,
- increased power factor upstream of the rectifier: 0.93 without filter, reducing the current consumed, and therefore the size of cables and protective devices,
- gradual, sequential start-up of the rectifiers in parallel, facilitating take up by the generating set,
- delayed battery recharge when running on generating set to reduce power consumption.




## SVM, digital Space Vector Modulation

The SVM (digital Space Vector Modulation), along with the isolation transformer installed on the inverter output, provide:
- perfectly sinusoidal output voltage THDV < 2 % with linear loads and < 3 % with non-linear loads,
- output voltage precision even when the load is completely unbalanced between phases,
- an immediate response to major variations in the load, without deviating the output voltage (± 2% in less than 5 ms),
- a very high short-circuit capacity up to 4 In (Ph / N) allows selectivity,
- a complete galvanic isolation between DC circuit and load output.

SVM, the latest high performance components and IGBT power bridges enable the supply of:
- non-linear loads with high crest factor up to 3,
- active power without derating, for loads with a lagging power factor and up to 0.9 leading.

# Static Transfer Systems (STS) for high availability architecture



## Static Transfer Systems (STS)

Static Transfer Systems (STS) are intelligent units that transfer the load to an alternative source when the primary source is out of tolerance. This ensures "high availability" of the power supply for sensitive or critical installations.

The purpose of STS devices is to:

- ensure the redundancy of the power supply to critical installations by means of two independent power sources,
- increase power supply reliability for sensitive installations,
- facilitate the design and expansion of installations that guarantee a high-availability power supply,
- increase the overall site flexibility, allowing easy and safe maintenance or source replacement.

STS systems incorporate reliable and proven solid-state switching technologies (SCR), enabling them to perform fast, totally safe automatic or manual switching without interrupting power to the supplied systems.

The use of high-quality components, fault-tolerant architecture, the ability to determine the location of the fault, management of faults and loads with high inrush currents: these are just some of the characteristics that make STS systems the ideal solution for achieving maximum power availability.

STS can also protect against:

- main power source failure,
- spurious tripping of upstream protective devices,
- mutual disturbances caused by faulty equipment (short-circuit) supplied by the same power source,
- operating errors (circuit opening) occurring in the supply chain.

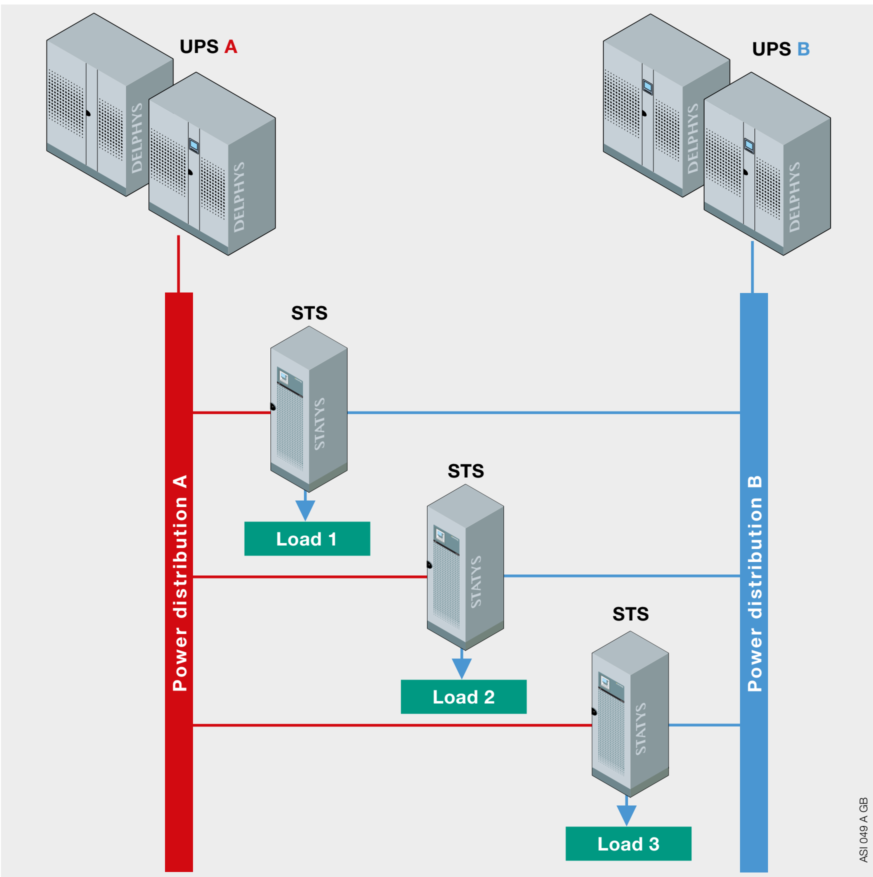
## Static Transfer Systems: some examples of usage

Normally, STS provide redundancy between 2 independent UPS systems.

Each STS is sized according to the load (or set of loads) it protects.

It is advisable to install the STS device as close as possible to the load, so as to ensure redundancy of the upstream distribution and to keep the single fault point (the conductor between STS and load) as short as possible.

The use of several STS also provide electrical load segregation.



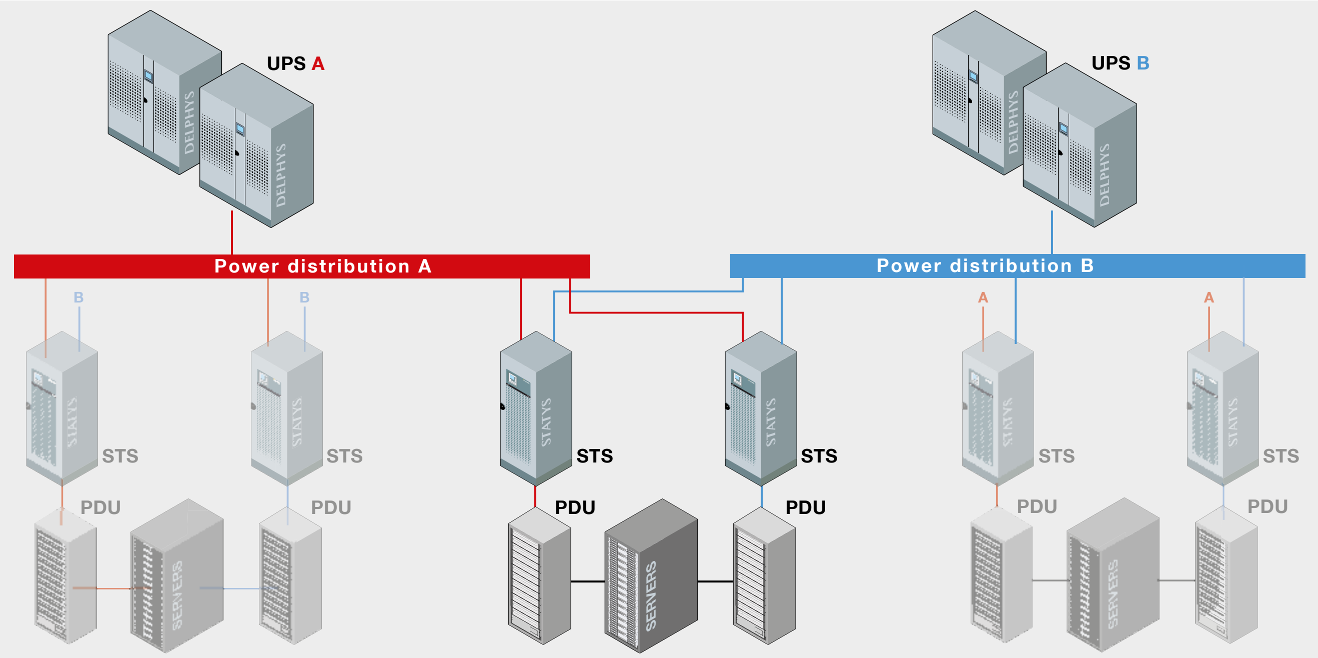
# Static Transfer Systems (STS)

## Static Transfer Systems: some examples of usage

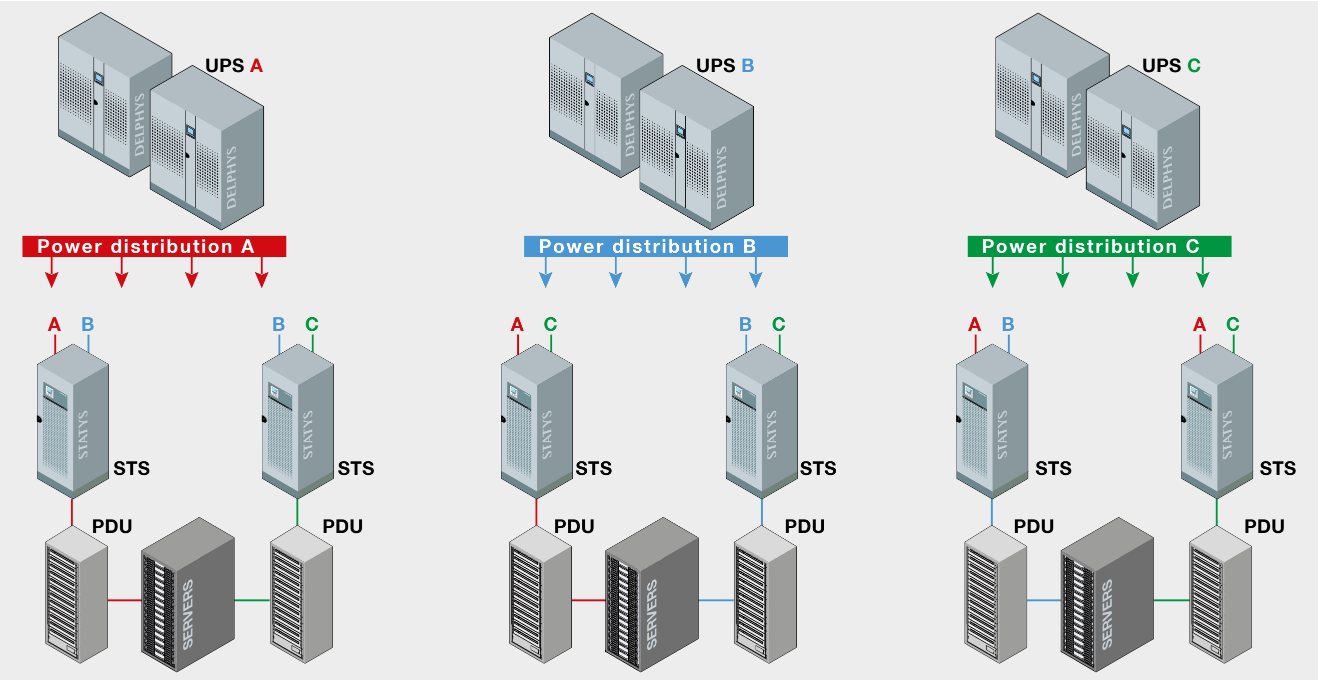
Static Transfer Systems ensure high business availability and provides site maintenance agility.
The '2N + STS' architecture ensures the load is always supplied by high power quality on each input, even if one power distribution is down due to critical fault or for long term maintenance (e.g. source replacement or failure of the electrical infrastructure).

The combination of a multi-source architecture and STS connecting the load to two independent sources ensures they are always supplied even if one of them is down. The critical facility therefore benefits from very high fault tolerance.

In both example, the STS can be centralised (one high STS rating for each power distribution switchboard) or distributed (close to each server room, row, rack, etc.). The choice of either solution depends on the installation to be protected and on the expected availability or the requested level of maintainability.




*STS in a 2N architecture*




*STS in a multi-source architecture*

# Back-up storage



## Expert Battery System: protecting your battery investment

Expert Battery System (EBS) technology is a system which manages the battery charger.

It responds to the working temperature to preserve battery life and reduce operating costs by:

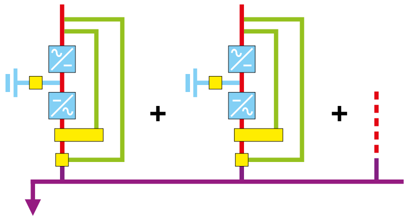
- charging according to an algorithm which adapts to the environment and the condition of the battery,
- eliminating overloading effects due to permanent floating voltage, which accelerates the corrosion of the positive plates and causes the separators to dry out,
- isolating the DC battery bus, (independent charger function). Premature ageing, caused by residual ripple from the inverter bridge is eliminated.

Tests carried out by SOCOMEC on several brands of batteries, together with years of experience, show that battery life can be enhanced by up to 30% with the use of EBS compared to a traditional battery management system.

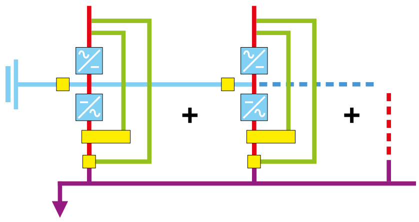
## Shared battery: optimisation of battery size for parallel systems

Available with distributed batteries, DELPHYS GP allows you to optimise battery size thanks to shared battery operation. This reduces the overall system footprint, the weight of the required batteries, the battery monitoring system, the amount of wiring needed and amount of lead.

Associated with an appropriate connection design (fuses and coupling switches), this solution also allows you to increase the availability of the battery set and UPS units in case of internal fault.



*Distributed battery*



*Shared battery*

# Different back-up storage for UPS systems

The battery is an electrochemical energy storage system able to generate a difference in potential that can make an electric current circulate in a circuit until the energy is exhausted.

Batteries can be divided into two categories:

- Primary: batteries which, once exhausted, cannot be recharged and returned to their initial state of charge (non-rechargeable batteries)
- Secondary: these batteries, also known as accumulators, can be recharged and returned to their initial state of charge. They are recharged with a battery charger which should have suitable characteristics to charge the specific battery technology.

**Battery parameters and definitions**

- Capacity (C): the mean current expressed in Ah which the battery supplies in a complete discharge carried out over a precise period of time. For example, C indicates the current supplied by the battery in case of discharge in 1 hour, C/5 the current in case of discharge in 5 hours, C/10 in case of discharge in 10 hours, etc.
- The rated capacity depends on the battery technology: for example, the rated capacity for lead-acid batteries is C/10, while that for NiCd batteries is C/5.
- Energy density: the amount of energy stored per unit of volume or weight expressed in Ah/kg or Wh/kg.
- Depth of Discharge (DoD): the fraction of the capacity (or of energy) taken from the battery during the discharge phase. Expressed as a % of the capacity, it is calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{DoD} = \frac{\text{Discharged capacity}}{\text{Rated capacity}}$$

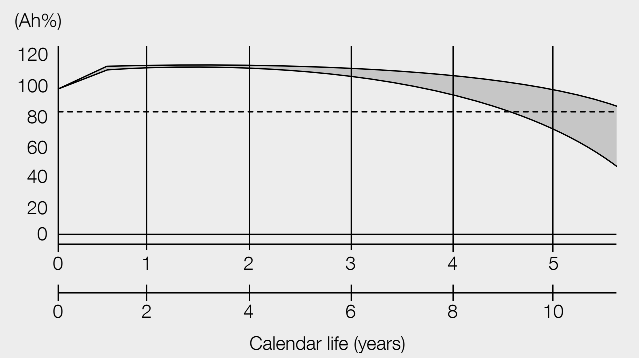
- State of Charge (SoC): the fraction of the capacity (or of energy) remaining in a battery. Expressed as a % of the capacity, it is calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{SoC} = \frac{\text{Remaining capacity}}{\text{Rated capacity}} = 1 - \text{DoD}$$

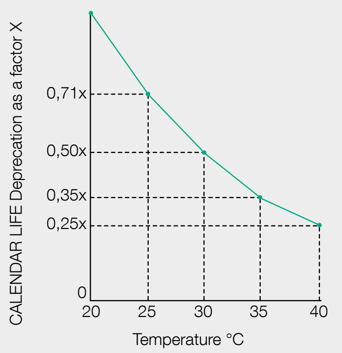
$$\text{DoD} + \text{SoC} = 100\%$$

- Calendar Life: the time after which the battery, regularly charged and kept at a controlled temperature, reduces its initial rated capacity to 80%. Normally, battery manufacturers talk about the "expected life", as this is an estimate obtained from laboratory tests. Battery service life is an important parameter for comparing various battery technologies.
- Cycle Life: the number of charge and discharge cycles at controlled temperature that the battery can withstand before the rated capacity is reduced to 80% of the initial value. The cycle life is very sensitive to temperature and to the depth of charge, to the extent that it is declared at a specific DoD value.
- Actual life: the battery service life in real conditions of use. This depends on the Calendar life, the Cycle life, the ambient temperature and the type of charge and discharge.
- Self-discharge: the percentage of charge capacity lost by the battery when not used (e.g. during storage in the warehouse). The parameter is linked to the type of battery and also depends highly on temperature (when the temperature increases, the self-discharge percentage increases).
- Internal impedance: this is composed of an inductive, a capacitive and a resistive part. It impedes the passage of current, increasing heat generation in the discharge phase. The most important part of the impedance to be monitored is the resistive part, as it indicates the state of health of the battery and on possible deterioration in progress. The internal resistance is influenced by various factors, the most important of which is temperature. The typical impedance values change according to the battery technology and capacity.

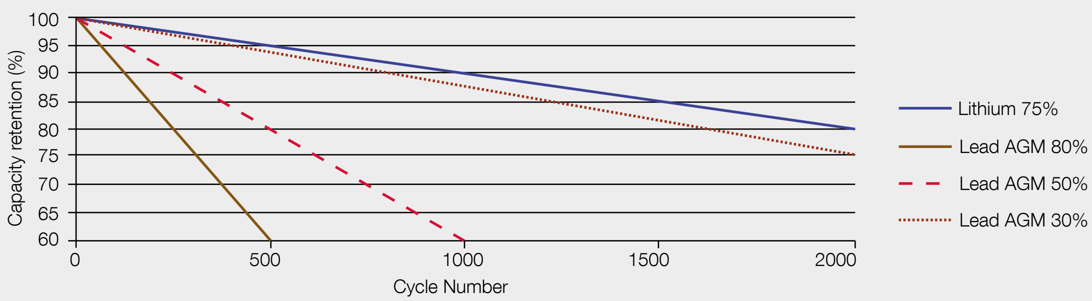
Lead battery calendar life floating at 20 °C




Lead battery calendar life *vs.* temperature (Eurobat)




Moderate climate, Cycle Life comparison



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Innovative Power Solutions

## Lead acid battery (LA)

Lead acid batteries are the most used battery type for stationary applications. Expected life for this kind of batteries is from 3 to 12 years according to Eurobat classification. Cycle life is usually poor even if certain of these batteries have good levels of performance in cycling applications. Lead acid batteries offer a mature and well-researched technology at low cost. There are many types of lead acid batteries available, e.g. vented and sealed housing versions (called valve-regulated lead acid batteries, VRLA, requiring less maintenance). VRLA batteries can be AGM (absorbed glass material, where the electrolyte is absorbed in a fiber glass) or GEL type (where the electrolyte is a gel used in higher temperature environments and in specific applications). One disadvantage of lead acid batteries is usable capacity decrease when high power is discharged. For example, if a battery is discharged in one hour, only about 50% to 70% of the rated capacity is available. Other drawbacks are lower energy density (lead has heavy specific weight) and the use of lead, a hazardous material prohibited or restricted in specific environments and applications. Advantages are a favorable cost/performance ratio, easy recyclability and a simple charging technology.

## Nickel cadmium battery (NiCd)

Compared to lead acid batteries, NiCd batteries have a higher power density, a slightly greater energy density and the number of cycles is higher. NiCd batteries are relatively rugged, are the only batteries capable of performing well even at low temperatures in the range from -20 °C to -40 °C, and their life expectancy is still good even at high temperature, so they are used in warm countries and in applications where high temperature is a constraint. Large battery systems using vented NiCd batteries operate on a scale similar to lead acid batteries. NiCd are normally vented so they need be stacked vertically with good ventilation, and they cannot be transported in a charging condition (electrolyte is shipped separately).

## Lithium-ion battery (Li-ion)

Li-ion batteries have high gravimetric energy density, meaning that a Li-ion battery solution is lighter and needs less floor space compared to LA or NiCd batteries. For Li-ion batteries the calendar life (over 10 years) and cycle life (thousands of cycles) are very good even at high temperatures. Give that the round-trip efficiency is high and with no oversizing for short back-up time (typical for UPS applications), it can be seen that Li-ion technology has several technical advantages. Most of the metal oxide electrodes are thermally unstable and can decompose at elevated temperatures, releasing oxygen which can lead to a thermal runaway. To minimize this risk, Li-ion batteries connected in series to obtain a voltage compatible to the UPS range are equipped with a monitoring unit to avoid over-charging and over-discharging. A voltage balance circuit is also installed to monitor the voltage level of each individual cell and prevent voltage deviations among them.

## Supercapacitors / Ultracapacitors

There are a number of different technologies that fall under the name ‘supercapacitors’ or ‘ultracapacitors’. The 2 main technologies are:

- Symmetric Electrical Double Layer Capacitors (Symmetric EDLC), where activated carbon is used for both electrodes. The charge mechanism is purely electrostatic: no charge moves across the electrode/electrolyte interface.
- Asymmetric Electrical Double Layer Capacitors (Asymmetric EDLC) where a battery electrode is used for one of the electrodes. The battery electrode has a large capacity in comparison to the carbon electrode, so that its voltage does not change significantly with charge. This allows a higher overall cell voltage.

Supercapacitors deliver quick bursts of energy during peak power demands, then quickly store energy; their extremely low internal resistance enables a very fast discharge and recharge with unbeatable high round-trip efficiency. In addition, they usually do not use hazardous materials, and they have very low self-discharging so use little current when in floating mode (which means less energy consumption for the UPS) and can go for long periods without being recharged.

## Lithium-ion capacitors (LIC)

The capacitor is a hybrid between a battery and a capacitor (asymmetric EDLC). The Li-ion capacitor comprises an activated carbon cathode (hence no safety risks due to thermal runaway[(1)]), an anode of Li-doped carbon and electrolyte containing a Li salt, as in a battery. This hybrid construction creates a capacitor which yields the best performance features of batteries and capacitors. The hybrid battery construction offers many advantages. These include high energy density and high voltage, the benefit being when connected in series, up to a 1/3 fewer LIC cells are needed compared to a conventional EDLC capacitor. Another advantage is the very low level of self-discharging: the LIC can hold 95% of its charge for 3 months. As it takes so little current when in floating mode, the UPS requires less energy consumption and the LIC can go for longer periods without being recharged.

LIC technology also has the added benefits of higher safety levels (no risk of thermal runaway), a high power density and quick charging and discharging. It is also more reliable, with high cycling (its estimated life is 1 million charge/discharge cycles) and resistance to a wide temperature range (-20 °C to 70 °C) that makes it ideal for use in difficult operating environments.

## Flywheel

Flywheels store energy in the form of momentum in a spinning mass. An electric motor spins the rotor to a high velocity to charge the flywheel. During discharge, the motor acts as a generator, converting the rotational energy into electricity. The energy stored in a flywheel depends on the mass and on the velocity according to the following equation:

$$E = \frac{1}{2} J \omega^2$$

Where J is the moment of inertia and $\omega$ is the angular velocity. Since the energy has quadratic proportion with angular velocity it is very important that the flywheel runs at very high velocity (over 30,000 rpm), for these reasons modern flywheels use magnetic levitation to avoid friction losses and spins under a sealed vacuum. The flywheel does not suffer restrictions due to high temperature (no calendar life reduction), does not have any hydrogen emission during recharging (as in the case of lead-acid batteries), can be recharged in a very short time, has a high-cycling range without reducing its expected life, does not use any use of hazardous materials, and can be installed where space for installation is limited. Flywheels have an output power measured in hundreds of kW and so are ideal for use in high power UPS systems.

## Compressed air energy storage (CAES)

In compressed air energy storage, electrical power is used to compress air and store it in a dedicated structure. When power is required, the compressed air is immediately converted to electricity by driving it through a scroll expander, in turn driving an electrical generator. The typical application is for power bridging (to switch mains power to genset power) but not in case of frequent micro interruptions. CAES systems can be parallelized to increase back-up time or to add redundancy. CAES can also be used in harsh environments and their long calendar life is not affected by temperature. When the system is fully charged it does not require any significant energy consumption, increasing the overall efficiency of a traditional battery-based UPS system.

*(1) Thermal runaway: a situation under abnormal operating conditions where a battery generates heat at a higher rate than it can dissipate. Thermal runaway can melt the plastic components of the batteries, releasing gas, smoke and acid that can damage adjacent equipment.*