

**Raport Badawczy**  
**Research Report**

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**An intelligent distributed  
system for flexible  
management of variable  
energy supply and demand  
in microgrids**

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**Część II**

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SYSTEMS RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
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## Chapter 7

# Conclusion

Impressive changes in electricity grid structures have been initiated by the emergence of new technologies, the new regulations to fight against the global warming, increasing demand for the secure supply of energy and rising prices of electricity. These changes gravitate toward development of renewable energy sources, prosumers and microgrids. Recent research results indicate that it is possible to create an energy self-sufficient community, that can be even selling surpluses of energy. The energy produced by renewable sources is, however, volatile, as it depends on changing meteorological conditions. Also the consumption of the energy in microgrids is proportionally much more volatile than in bigger grids. The problems caused by uncertain production and consumption can be overcome by using the computer based Energy Management Systems.

In this work, a modular distributed EMS is presented. The novelty of the solution presented is first of all in the complex treatment of the problem. It includes two modules dealing with balancing the power produced and consumed in the microgrid. One module solves in advance the task scheduling problem, in order to find a suboptimal way of shifting the loads to be possibly covered by the energy produced within the microgrid. The short-time power balancing module balances the power in the real time by activating both the generation and the load side of the microgrid. For this, it uses the multi-agent technology. Thus, both production and consumption of the energy in the grid self-adapt to the changing energy needs and supply.

The main aim of the system is to optimize (generalized) costs of exploiting the electric energy in a Research and Education Center, which is simulated with a considerable high accuracy to allow for testing the EMS operation. As compared to the simple reduction of the energy bought, caused by straight exploitation of the renewable energy sources, application of the EMS provides savings due to making long-term deals with external power grid, which is cheaper in comparison to trading on the balancing (spot) market, and then possibly precisely following the contracted power trajectory, in spite of disturbances resulted from randomness in generation and demand of energy. In all decision making stages soft suboptimal algorithms are applied, as metaheuristic or multi-agent ones.

Although a Research and Educational Center is considered in the paper, the elaborated system and methodology is of a general character. Many solutions are opened and can be easily redefined. So, it can be applied as well for other grids.

To test the system the insolation, wind speed, water level and consumption simulators had to be designed and implemented. For weather data some specific requirements had to be met: data had to be adequate to the location of the microgrid and had to be calculated fast for long time (more than a year). For this purpose the Matched-Block Bootstrap was used. It is a fairly simple and fast method that generates data that have satisfying statistical properties.

Simulating power consumption proved to be more complex and much less researched

problem than weather simulation. The most common method of describing the consumption are 24-hour or longer profiles, which is not enough for system that should balance continuous changes in power levels. Consumption simulator offers different, adjusted to the type of a device, ways of describing the behavior: profiles, probability profiles, rules and combination of rules with short profiles.

## 7.1 Open questions and problems

This work showed that agent approach is very suitable for considering balancing problem and that the computer system can balance the electric power in microgrid in desired time. The continuation of this project should aim at connecting the system to the real devices to check its operation in real-life conditions.

To use efficiently such system in real conditions it probably will be necessary to reimplement the system to more controllable environment and programming language. JAVA and JADE framework have a lot of advantages, but the move to more controllable and optimized programming language (e.g. C++) can be beneficial for performance.

The power storage units are mainly focused on covering very short and small imbalances. But this type of device can take part in more long-term planning. The possibility of scheduling charging and discharging batteries by the Planner might help decreasing imbalances. There should be more done to evaluate the usage of batteries and battery powered cars in such facility.

The island mode operation of microgrid was not considered with enough details in this work, mainly due to the inability to define the priorities of priority of switching on and off of devices in situation of power shortages. Additional research should be done to evaluate which devices have to be maintained operational in island mode and what is the procedure of changing the mode. Some devices require some time for safe switching off and others operation is crucial, but short deficit of power does not cause any damage to them.

The Research and Educational Center has one owner, which eliminates the problem of division of costs and gains. In the more general case such aspects should be considered. There is a number of scientists that work on that problem, e.g. [120] using game-theory approach.

There should be also a continuation of research considering demand response aspects of the problem. Introduction of more intelligent devices can make demand side management more efficient and allow for more optimal usage of the power. The amount of savings and the level of control of a device has still to be researched.

Trading with external network is the key to optimizing the cost of power. In the project the model of the power market for small amounts of electricity was considered. The existing balancing system should be extended to consider the long-term deals between the owner of microgrid and the power distributor. That would allow negotiating possibly cheaper deals for power. Such scenarios have still to be developed.

The testing of the system was very important, but could be done using simple generators of demand and uncontrollable supply. There should be done more research to analyse how people use the power and how demand is created. That is a crucial problem in creating microgrids which are more volatile to the small changes in demand patterns.

# Abbreviation list

AI	Artificial Intelligence
AMS	Agent Management System
CGB	Condensing Gas Boilers
CHP	Combined Heat and Power
DEMS	Distributed Energy Management System
DSM	Demand Site Management
EMS	Energy Management System
FIPA	Foundation for Intelligent Physicl Agents
GUI	Graphical User Interface
GM	Gas Microturbine
JADE	JAVA Agent DEvelopment Framework
kW	Kilowatt
LECR	Laboratory of Energy Consumption Rationalization
LMEB	Laboratory of MicroCHP and Ecological Boilers
LPIS	Laboratory of Power Industry Safety Engineering
LST	Laboratory of Solar Techniques
LWPE	Laboratory of Wind Power Engineering
LV	Low Voltage
MABB	Matched-block bootstrap
MAS	Multi-agent System
MHPP	Micro Hydroelectric Power Plant
ms	milliseconds
MV	Medium Voltage
MVT	Micro Wind Turbines
P	power
PHEV	Plug-in hybrid electric vehicle
PV	Photovoltaic panels
Q	reactive power
RE	Reciprocating Engine
s	seconds
SMES	Superconducting Magnetic Energy Storage
SOA	System Oriented Architecture
U	voltage
VPP	virtual power plants
VP	virtual prosumer



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