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Are solar powered cellular base stations a viable solution?

Cellular base stations powered by renewable energy sources such as solar power have emerged as one of the promising solutions to these issues. This article presents an overview of the state-of-the-art in the design and deployment of solar powered cellular base stations.

What are the components of a solar powered base station?

A solar powered BS typically consists of PV panels, batteries, an integrated power unit, and the load. This section describes these components. Photovoltaic panels are arrays of solar PV cells to convert the solar energy to electricity, thus providing the power to run the base station and to charge the batteries.

Are solar powered base stations a good idea?

Base stations that are powered by energy harvested from solar radiation not only reduce the carbon footprint of cellular networks, they can also be implemented with lower capital cost as compared to those using grid or conventional sources of energy. There is a second factor driving the interest in solar powered base stations.

How does a battery group work in a base station?

The equipment in base stations is usually supported by the utility grid, where the battery group is installed as the backup power. In case that the utility grid interrupts, the battery discharges to support the communication switching equipment during the period of the power outage.

How much power does a base station use?

BSs are categorized according to their power consumption in descending order as: macro, micro, mini and femto. Among these, macro base stations are the primary ones in terms of deployment and have power consumption ranging from 0.5 to 2 kW. BSs consume around 60% of the overall power consumption in cellular networks.

Why do cellular communication base stations need a battery allocation?

Current cellular communication base stations are facing serious problems due to the mismatch between the power outage situations and the backup battery supporting abilities. In this paper, we proposed BatAlloc, a battery allocation framework to address this issue.

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Techno- Economic Feasibility of Hybrid Solar Photovoltaic and Battery Energy Storage Power System for a Mobile Cellular Base Station in Soshanguve, South Africa.

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