Contents

About the Author ................................................................. page xi
Foreword by Dr. Woodrow W. Clark II ........................................... xiii
Preface ................................................................................ xvii
Disclaimer Note ...................................................................... xxiii
Acknowledgments .................................................................. xxv
Peer Review of Solar Power Generation Problems, Solutions,
and Monitoring ................................................................. xxvii

1 Types of Energy Sources and Energy Production and Use .......... 1
   Introduction ........................................................................ 1
   Conservation of Energy ..................................................... 1
   First and Second Laws of Thermodynamics ......................... 2
   Life and Entropy .................................................................. 5
   The Concept of Energy in Various Scientific Fields ................. 8

2 Significance of Large-Scale Photovoltaic Solar Power Energy
   Production ........................................................................ 12
   A Brief History of the Photoelectric Phenomenon ..................... 12
   The Use of the Photovoltaic Principle in Solar Power Systems .... 12
   Solar Power Technologies and Their Significance as Viable Sources of
     Electrical Energy .............................................................. 13
   Issues Associated with Conventional Energy Production Systems .... 17
   The Electrical Power Grid .................................................. 19
   Specific Nature of Photovoltaic Technology ............................ 20
   Main Objectives for Installing Large-Scale Grid-Connected Solar Power
     Systems ............................................................................ 23
   Third-Party Solar Power Providers ......................................... 24

3 Concentrator Photovoltaic Technology .................................... 27
   Introduction ........................................................................ 27
# Contents

Multijunction Photovoltaic Cells ........................................... 28  
Concentrator Design for Passively Cooled Modules .................. 32  
Field Installation and Performance ..................................... 33  
Benefits of CPV Solar Power Systems .................................. 35  
Engineering Design Process .............................................. 40

4 Issues and Problems Associated with Large-Scale Solar Power Systems ........................................ 42  
Introduction ................................................................. 42  
The Problems ............................................................... 42  
Solar Power System Construction Process and Associated Issues .... 43  
Net Outfall of Solar Power Subcontracting ............................... 44  
Solar Power System Life Safety and Fire Hazards ..................... 45  
Ground-Fault Protection Blind Spot ..................................... 50

5 How to Design and Specify Large-Scale Solar Power Systems .... 61  
Introduction ................................................................. 61  
Shading Analysis and Solar Energy Performance Multiplier ........... 61  
Importance of Solar Power Feasibility Study ............................ 62  
Designing Large-Scale Solar Power Systems ............................. 64  
Solar Power System Essential Design Considerations and Computations 65  
Entrance Service Power Considerations for Grid-Connected Solar Power Systems ........................................ 79  
Photovoltaic System Power Output Rating ............................... 81  
Solar Power Project Cost Analysis ....................................... 87  
Conclusion ................................................................. 89

6 Solar Power Construction and Project Management ................... 90  
Introduction ................................................................. 90  
What Is Special about Large-Scale Solar Power Construction? ....... 90  
Study and Evaluation of Engineering Plans and Documents .......... 90  
Construction Supervisory Tasks and Responsibilities ................ 92  
How to Perform Dynamic Field Test and Integration .................. 94  
System Integration Test and Commissioning ............................ 96  
Importance of Troubleshooting Procedures ............................. 99  
Customer Training Curriculum ......................................... 100

7 Solar Power Financing ...................................................... 102  
Introduction ................................................................. 102  
California Solar Initiative Rebate Program ............................. 102  
Incentive Payments ......................................................... 112  
California Solar Initiative Reservation Form Calculations ............. 113  
An Overview of Solar Power Project Financing ........................ 118  
Solar Power System Ownership .......................................... 125  
Feed-In Tariffs ............................................................... 129
## Contents

1. **Effects of Feed-In Tariff on Electricity Rates** ........................................ 131
2. **Grid Parity** .................................................................................. 131
3. **Large-Scale Solar Power System Legal Issues** ............................... 133
   - Introduction ................................................................................. 133
   - Long-Term Industrial Project Financing ..................................... 133
   - Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC) and Contractual
     Documents ................................................................................. 134
   - Shareholder Agreement ............................................................... 136
   - PPA Contracts and Legal Issues .................................................. 141
   - Advantages of Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) ................... 141
   - Preparation for PPA Proposal ..................................................... 142
   - PPA Legal Language and Contract Language .............................. 143
4. **Proposed Advanced Photovoltaic Solar Power System Technology** ... 177
   - Requirements .............................................................................. 177
   - Technology Feature and Capability Requirements ..................... 177
   - Control and Communication Features ....................................... 177
   - Econometric Analytics Software ................................................. 180
   - PV Module Submetering Technology .......................................... 181
   - Remote Data Acquisition and Control System Software Architecture 188
   - Data Normalization Algorithms .................................................. 189
   - Anomaly Detection Software ...................................................... 190
   - Examples of PV System Energy Production ............................... 191
   - Principal Functions of the Proposed Intelligent Combiner Box Technology 193
   - Solar Power System Construction and Integration Phases ........... 196
   - Solar Power System Fault Detection and Diagnostics ................ 197
   - Solar Power Output Performance Monitoring ............................ 199
   - Data Acquisition and Display User Interface and Econometric
     Analytical Features .................................................................. 200
5. **Microinverters and Peak Power Tracking (PPT) Technologies** ......... 205
   - Microinverter Technologies ........................................................... 205
   - String Inverter and Microinverter Comparison ............................. 213
   - String Inverter ............................................................................ 216
   - Microinverter Pros and Cons ....................................................... 219
   - Disadvantages of Peak Power Tracking (PPT) Technologies ....... 221
6. **Advanced Solar Power Generation and Integration with Smart Grid** ... 231
   - Introduction ............................................................................... 231
   - Transitioning to Smart Grid Systems ......................................... 232
   - Electrical Energy Demand and Supply Control ........................... 233
   - Smart Grid Technology Challenges .......................................... 234
   - The United States Unified Smart Grid ....................................... 235
   - Principal Function and Architecture of Smart Grid Systems ........ 238
12 Large-Scale Energy Storage Systems .......................... 251
  Introduction .................................................. 251
  Forms of Energy Storage ........................................ 251
  Importance of Grid Energy Storage ............................ 252
  Renewable Energy Storage ...................................... 252
  Energy Storage Methods ....................................... 252
  Modern Energy Storage Technologies .......................... 253
  Pumped-Water Storage Systems .................................. 253
  Electrochemical Battery Technologies .......................... 255
  Short-Term Thermal Heat and Cold Storage Systems ............ 255
  Energy Storage in Chemical Fuels ............................... 255
  Advanced Storage Technologies ................................ 256
  Compressed-Air Energy Storage ................................ 257
  Gravitational Potential Energy Storage ......................... 258
  Electrochemistry .............................................. 258
  Quantitative Electrolysis and Faraday’s Laws .................... 259
  First Law of Electrolysis ..................................... 259
  Second Law of Electrolysis ................................... 260
  Oxidation and Reduction ...................................... 260
  Acidic Medium ................................................ 261
  Basic Medium .................................................. 262
  Electrochemical Cells ........................................ 263
  Electromotive Force .......................................... 264
  Standard Electrode Potential .................................. 264
  Electrical Storage Battery .................................... 265
  Lead-Acid Battery Electrolysis Principle ....................... 265
  Corrosion ..................................................... 266
  Sacrificial Anodes ............................................ 267
  Application of Redox Process in Electrolysis ................... 267
  Electrolysis of Water ......................................... 268
  Electrochemical Rechargeable Battery Technologies .......... 269
  Lead-Acid Battery ............................................. 269
  Nickel–Cadmium (NiCd) Battery ................................ 269
  Foam Lead-Acid Battery Technology ............................... 270
  Battery Development Challenges and Objectives ............... 271
  Conventional Lead-acid Battery Failure Modes ................. 271
  Cycle Life ..................................................... 272
  Foam-Based Battery Technology ................................ 273
## Contents

Commercial Introduction ................................................. 274
3D Technology ...................................................... 274
3D Technology Energy and Power Performance Attributes .......... 275
Utilization and Spatial Efficiency ...................................... 275
Low and High Temperature Advantages .................................. 277
Hot Temperature Operation .............................................. 279
Dramatic Life Cycle Improvements ...................................... 279
Performance Summary of Foam-Based Battery Technology .......... 281
Recent Firefly Battery Advancements .................................... 282
Lithium-Ion Battery ...................................................... 282
Flow Battery Technologies .............................................. 283
Reduction-Oxidation (REDOX) Process .................................. 285
Vanadium Redox Battery (VRB) Technology ............................ 285
Zinc Bromine (ZnBr) Battery Technology ............................... 287
Flow Battery System Cost Comparison ................................... 288
Importance of Flow Battery Use in Solar Power Systems .......... 289
Super-Capacitors ....................................................... 289
Double-Layer Capacitance ............................................... 290
Pseudo-Capacitance ...................................................... 290
Hybrid Capacitors ....................................................... 290
Super-Capacitor Technology Operational Principles ................. 291
Capacitance Distribution ................................................ 292
Super-Capacitor Electrical Charge Storage Principles ............... 292
Electrostatic Double-Layer Capacitance ................................ 293
Fabrication of Super-Capacitors ......................................... 294
Electrodes Material ..................................................... 296
Ultra-Battery Technologies .............................................. 297
Energy Storage and Harvesting .......................................... 300
Application ............................................................. 301
Specific Advantages of Ultra-Batteries ................................ 301
Application of Ultra-Battery in Microgrids .............................. 301
Ultra-Battery Unique Properties ....................................... 302

Appendix A Glossary: Solar Energy Power Terms ...................... 303
Appendix B Feasibility Study and Example .............................. 339
Feasibility Study ....................................................... 339
Solar Power Site Survey Guide and Logs ................................ 340
Solar Power System Preliminary Design Consideration ............... 352
Guideline ............................................................. 352
Shading Analysis and Solar Energy Performance ....................... 354
Multiplier .............................................................. 354
Project Preliminary Cost Estimating Example .......................... 362
Solar Power Array Shading .............................................. 369
Appendix C Solar Power System Tests .......................... 375
  Dynamic Solar Power Output Performance Measurement Procedure . 375
  Ground Insulation Test Requirements ................................. 376
  Power Output Measurement Tests ...................................... 377
  Solar Power String Test .............................................. 378
  String Isc Measurements ............................................. 382
  Inverter Startup Test Sequence ..................................... 386

Appendix D Bakersfield, California, Solar Power Fire ..................... 391

Appendix E U.S. Statewide Solar Initiative Programs and International Tariffs 395

Appendix F Alternative and Solar Power Engineering Studies Program .... 437

Appendix G Historical Timeline of Solar Power Energy .................... 457

Index ................................................................. 465