

Professional Training by using German concepts adopted to the Brazilian reality

IV German-Brazilian Renewable Energy Business Conference, February 2016

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The company

- Founded in 2003
- Technologies: PV, Solar Heating
- Training classes since 2008
 - For professionals, students, curious and low income people
 - Most complete program in Rio
- Installations and projects
- International business support
- Well connected to important players
 - GIZ, AHK
 - Sebrae, Senai, SESC
 - Rio Capital da Energia
 - Universities
 - Government
 - Institutions





Development of photovoltaics market and trainings in Brazil

- Until 2011: off-grid systems
 - mostly small and simple
 - Hybrid systems being built by specialized companies
 - Low demand, Few trainings
- 2012: starting on-grid
 - April 2012: Regulation Aneel 482, permitting on-gridinstallations in Brazil
 - Mixed trainings on and off-grid, first specific trainings for on-grid-systems
- 2013: First running on-grid installations
 - Supply chain is being built up
 - Experience with utility companies and real difficulties
 - Growing demand for trainings
 - About 5 training providers in Brazil
 - August 2013: first on-grid installation in Rio de Janeiro by Solarize







Development of PV market and trainings in Brazil

- 2014: First auction of large-scale plants
- 2015: Expansion of training demand
 - New specialized trainings : surge protection, large scale systems, software PV*SOL
 - Installed systems increase by 300%
 - New regulation Aneel 387/2015, creating new markets
 - Changes on legislation (taxes etc.) → frequent changes in training material
- 2016: We expect consolidation
 - Increasing demand on trainings basic classes are booked out one month in advance
 - 28 training providers in Brazil (source: Portal Solar, some of them are inactive)
 - More specialized trainings
 - Mostly established supply chain
 - Fewer changes of legal issues









Why did we decide to start with German concepts for our Brazilian classes?

- Worldwide best experience with on-grid systems
- High level standardization (DIN, VDI is the base for EN, IEC)
- Well structured training material (DGS, TÜV)

What are the challenges when adopting these concepts to the Brazilian reality? Let's see some examples ...



Professional education and culture

Germany

High level professional education

Brazil

- Very diversely capacitated public in our classes
 - Electric engineers
 - Electricians with or without formal education
 - Other technicians or engineers (Oil & Gas, mechanical)
 - Entrepreneurs & general public

Solutions

- Use simple explications about general pv topics, interchanged with technical details "only for specialists"
- Inform about the specific security issues concerning pv systems
- Reinforce the importance of longevity of pv systems (> 25 years)
- Stimulate use of high quality material, even if expensive







Investment capability and disposition

Germany

- Low interest rates & expensive workforce
- Stable conditions raise the disposition to invest in efficiency

Brazil

- High interest rates & reduced access to credits
- Unstable political and economical conditions make it unsure if the investment will pay back

Solutions

- Introduce professional tools, but provide simple solutions for beginning installers
- Example: Dimensioning
 - Starting approach: RetScreen software (free) + Excel sheets
 - When established: professional software like PV*SOL
- Example: Commissioning
 - Starting approach: short circuit box + usual multimeters
 - When established: integrated and more reliable instruments









Calculation of Return on Investment

Germany

 Feed in tariff guarantees prices over the next 20 years

Brazil

- Net metering earnings depends on
 - Consumption tariffs in the future (1)
 (high political impact in the last years)
 - Taxes that vary depending on monthly consumption (2) – state law
 - Base tariff (custo de disponibilidade) absorbs energy in months with low consumption (3)

Solutions

- Monitor real data and gain experience (Example: Solarize's system in 30 month)
- Explain the rules and make clear that any calculation is imprecise and depends on individual assumptions



May I predict the return of pv systems?



- Even highly technical trainings using commodity products need an intercultural adoption
- Photovoltaics in Brazil is still a very new topic with monthly changes
- Will 2016 bring a consolidation?
- Would it be better to standardize trainings?



Thank you for your attention

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