



Press release of SMA Solar Technology AG

Solar Energy and Storage: SMA Solution Brings Back the Sound of Heavenly Silence on the Caribbean Island of Saba

Niestetal, March 13, 2019 – Diesel generators off – Solar energy on. A historic moment for the nearly 2,000 inhabitants of the small Caribbean island of Saba: For the first time, the sun is the sole electricity supplier. SMA Sunbelt Energy GmbH added a 2.3 MWh storage solution with Sunny Central Storage battery inverters by SMA Solar Technology AG (SMA) to the island's PV farm to intermediately store excess solar power for later use. The local electric utility company SEC assumes that use of diesel generators will not be required at all for up to ten hours on sunny days.

"It is always impressive when, as on Saba, all diesel generators can be switched off completely and suddenly the silence reigns at the power plant. In Diesel-off mode the system now saves about 300 litres of diesel every hour," said Jorge Vélez, Project Manager at SMA Sunbelt Energy GmbH. "A Medium Voltage Power Station equipped with one Sunny Central Storage 2200 battery inverter with grid-forming capability is responsible for ensuring the system frequency even without diesel generators. It stabilizes the grid and provides the reserve power from the batteries."

1 million liters of diesel savings

"It is a great milestone for Saba. From now on the entire energy supply of our island will come to a large extent from renewable sources," said Dexter Johnson, CEO of Saba Electric Company (SEC), which is responsible for the electricity supply of the whole island. "In the past few weeks, SMA Sunbelt Energy GmbH has successfully supplied and commissioned the Battery Energy Storage System connected to the Medium Voltage grid. We are very happy with the result and expect that Saba's inhabitants can be supplied with solar power exclusively for up to ten hours on sunny days. We calculate fuel savings by approx 1 million liters per year."

Smooth transitions between solar power, batteries and diesel gensets

The grid-forming properties of the battery inverters and the SMA Hybrid Controller make it possible to switch off the diesel generators automatically without jeopardizing the stability of the utility grid. The SMA system combines solar power and a battery-storage system and only integrates the diesel generators when necessary, providing smooth transitions between power sources. Fluctuations in the solar power generation, for example caused by moving clouds, are balanced within milliseconds, excess energy is stored temporarily in the batteries.

The PV farm on the island of Saba is already the second major project of SMA and its subsidiary SMA Sunbelt Energy GmbH that enables a 100% renewable electricity supply. At the end of 2017, it was already possible to switch off the



diesel generators on the neighboring island of St. Eustatius. A 4.15 MW PV farm and a battery-storage system with a capacity of 5.9 MWh supply approximately 4,000 inhabitants with clean solar power.

A film and more information on the exciting project can be found [here](#).

All information on the Sunny Central Storage battery inverters is available on the [SMA website](#).

About SMA

The SMA Group with sales of around €900 million in 2017 is a global leader for solar inverters, a key component of all PV plants. SMA offers a wide range of products and solutions that allow for high energy yields for residential and commercial PV systems and large-scale PV power plants. To increase PV self-consumption efficiently, SMA system technology can easily be combined with different battery technologies. Intelligent energy management and digital energy solutions, comprehensive services and operational management of PV power plants round off SMA's range. The company is headquartered in Niestetal, near Kassel, Germany, is represented in 18 countries and has more than 3,000 employees worldwide, including 500 working in Development. SMA's multi-award-winning technology is protected by more than 1,200 patents and utility models. Since 2008, the Group's parent company, SMA Solar Technology AG, has been listed on the Prime Standard of the Frankfurt Stock Exchange (S92) and is listed in the SDAX index.

SMA Solar Technology AG

Sonnenallee 1

34266 Niestetal

Germany

Head of Corporate Communications:

Anja Jasper

Tel. +49 561 9522-2805

Presse@SMA.de

Press Contact:

Susanne Henkel

Manager Corporate Press

Tel. +49 561 9522-1124

Presse@SMA.de



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