3 phase hybrid solar inverter reviews

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We explain how battery systems work and review the leading solar batteries in Australia for various home solar and off-grid systems, including Sigenergy, FranklinWH, BYD, Sungrow and Powerplus energy. Including battery pricing, sizes, compatibility, and unique features.

Evidence shows that deep discharging Lithium (LFP) batteries increases aging and reduces battery life. In this article we explain what causes accerated battery capacity loss and how to prolong the life of your battery system. We also highlight other issues which can occur when batteries are deeply discharged.

This post is part of our reviews of hybrid solar inverters – which when paired with a battery – can be good Tesla Powerwall alternatives. Here, I’m taking a closer look at the Sungrow SH5.0RS.

The ability to integrate another AC-coupled solar inverter makes these units much more attractive. You can either have legacy solar on the grid side or more Sungrow AC-coupled inverters on the backup side of the system.

This means the extra solar inverter (rated not more than the hybrid) can power loads directly – without bothering the battery. Great news if you want or need more daytime surge capacity. Better yet, the full-rated specifications available with a battery hybrid means you can load a Sungrow with 200% solar. That’s potentially 20kW of panels on the roof with a single-phase connection.

The warranty is specified as 10 years, and they even offer limited support for off grid operation, not that I would recommend it for anything but the most modest application.

The SH5.0RS has far greater surge capacity and is a little more flexible in solar terms than Sungrow’s previous hybrid inverters. As panel wattages trend upward, solar current outputs are going up more than voltages, so the inverters are now given a suitably lower opening voltage window and more importantly, greater current ratings.

All new generation high voltage hybrid inverters use lower current, so they require much lighter cables from the inverter to the battery, and long cables will suffer less voltage drop. This means the batteries can be placed further away. These advantages come with a small trade-off in the form of an extra layer of complexity (and point of failure) in the battery management system compared to the older low-voltage models.

Lighter, cheaper cables become important when you realise that Sungrow (amongst many) wire the Emergency Power Supply through the inverter. That means you may need a large and expensive pair of cables to run:

Putting the inverter near the switchboard and moving the battery some distance away to an AS5139 compliant battery location reduces the cabling expense and minimises the voltage drop problem.

Suppose you instead choose an inverter that operates in parallel with the grid, like the Fronius Gen24 or SolarEdge. In that case, you’ll only need one decent-sized supply cable, potentially freeing up the positioning of the whole system.

You can argue a long changeover is a feature, an unmissable analogue warning that the grid is gone and you need to curb your consumption. Still, many will prefer the seamless changeover of a Selectronic, Sungrow, Goodwe or Tesla system.

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