

Smart microgrid & system
integration



Lesson 1: Technologies and smart grid integration

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In this video you will learn:

- Main components of smart microgrids
 - Operation modes of smart microgrids
 - Modules of smart microgrid controller
 - Intelligent energy management
 - Advanced (micro)grid monitoring
 - Advanced microgrid power control



Components of a smart microgrid

Generation facilities

RES or non-RES

Distribution network

Grid infrastructure and assets, including electrical lines, transformers, protections, etc.

Energy storage

Backup & balance services
Batteries, flywheels or hydro pumped-storage

Consumption loads

Energy-consuming devices which can be:

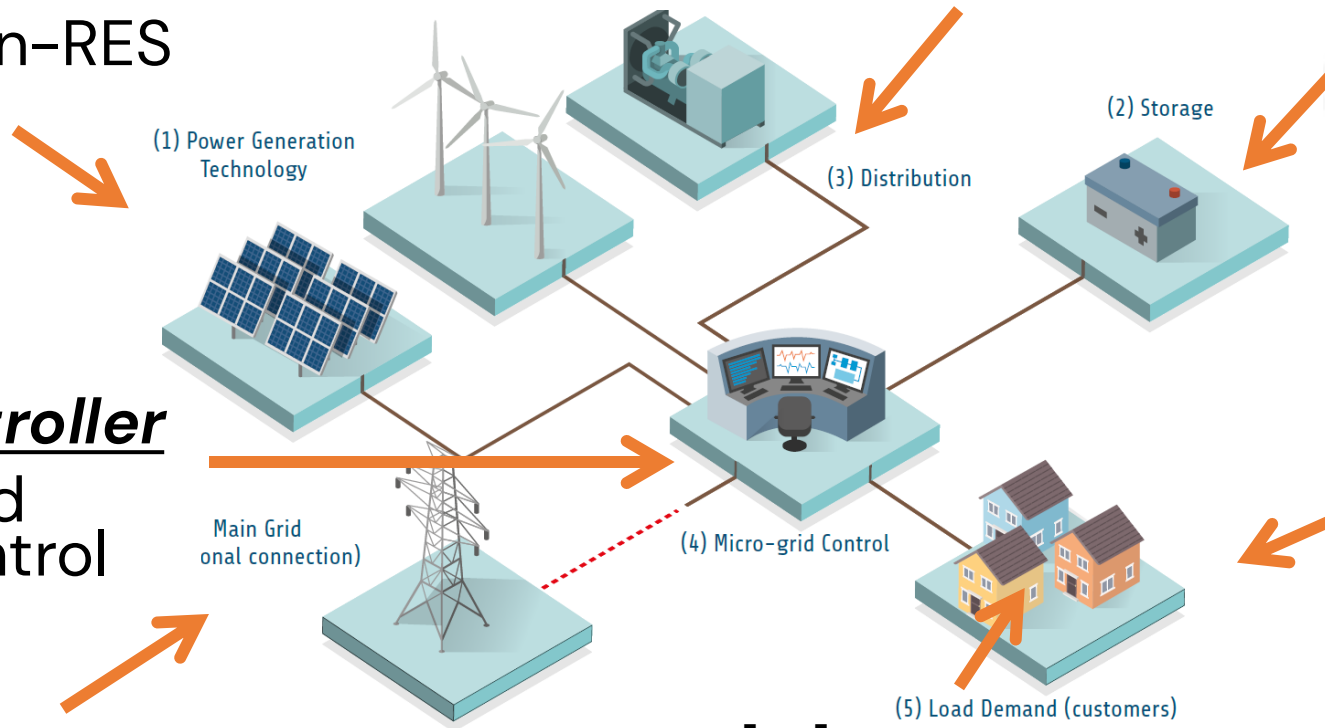
- (un)controllable,
- (in)flexible
- shiftable
- (un)intelligent

Main controller

Energy and power control

Main grid

In on-grid microgrids



[1,2]



Operation modes of smart microgrids

Microgrids are **classified** into isolated and non-isolated microgrids [3].

Isolated (or off-grid)

Have no electrical connection to a wider electric power system

Non-isolated (or on-grid)

Can act as controllable units to the utility electric power system

Operation modes

Grid-connected mode

Ensure internal energy balance and synchronization with the main grid

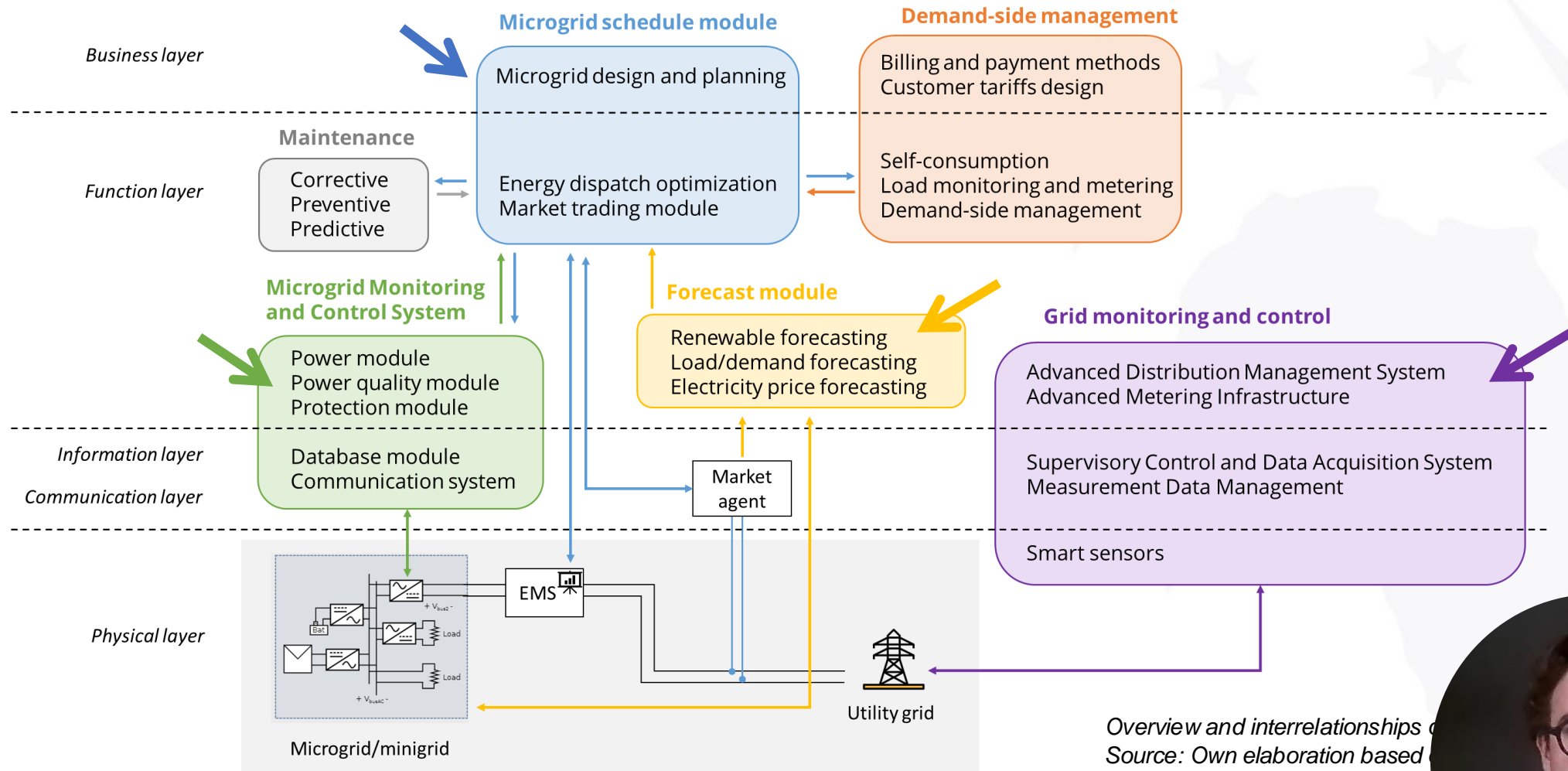
Islanded mode

Provide short-term stability and optimization to maintain voltage



Main modules of a microgrid controller

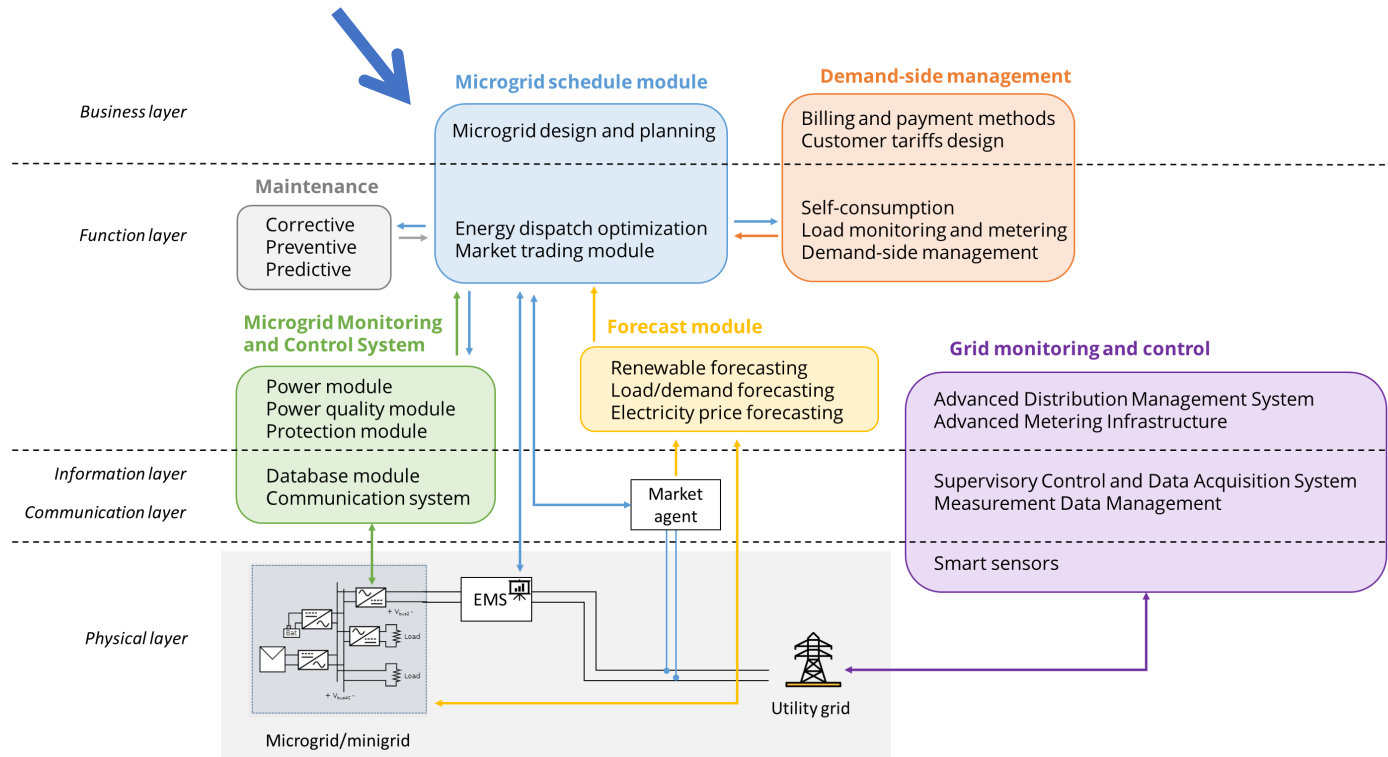
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Overview and interrelationships of
Source: Own elaboration based on
62898-2:2018: Microgrids - Part 2



Intelligent energy management (I)

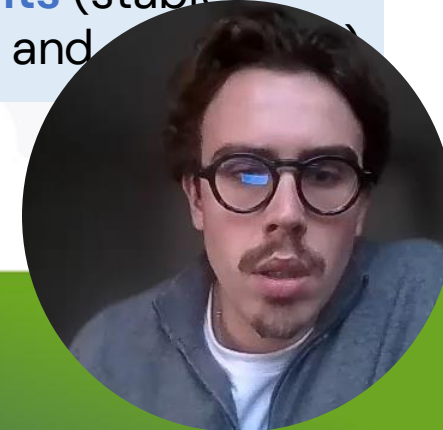


Microgrid schedule module

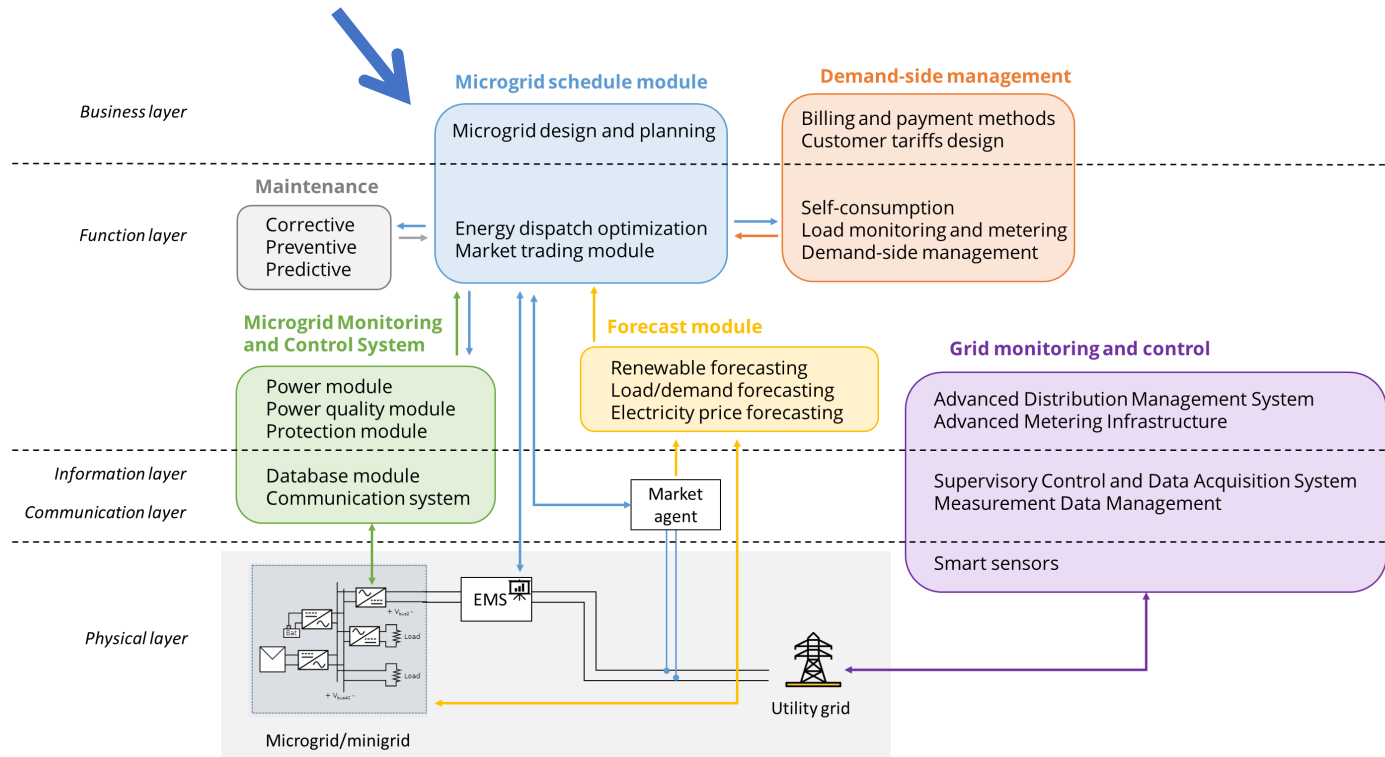
Starting from design and planning phases to meet demand reliably and economically from a long-term optimization and dispatch:

- ✓ **Microgrid design and planning**
- ✓ **Unit commitment** (conventional generation activations and ramps)
- ✓ **Long-term bilateral power purchase agreements** (stable energy price for RES and

Overview and interrelationships of smart microgrids modules. Source: Own elaboration based on [3] IEC. (2018). IEC TS 62898-2:2018: Microgrids - Part 2: Guidelines for operation.



Intelligent energy management (II)



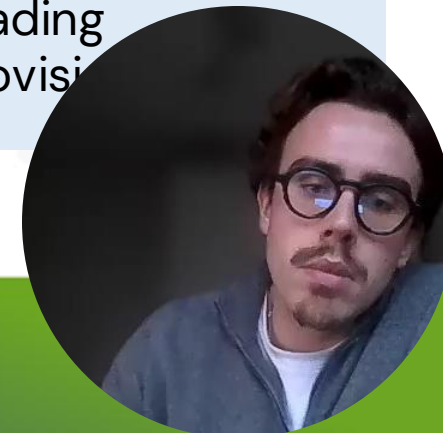
Microgrid schedule module

Daily energy dispatch: resource dispatch based on multiple objectives (security/technical/economic goals) considering different technical, system operation and robustness constraints

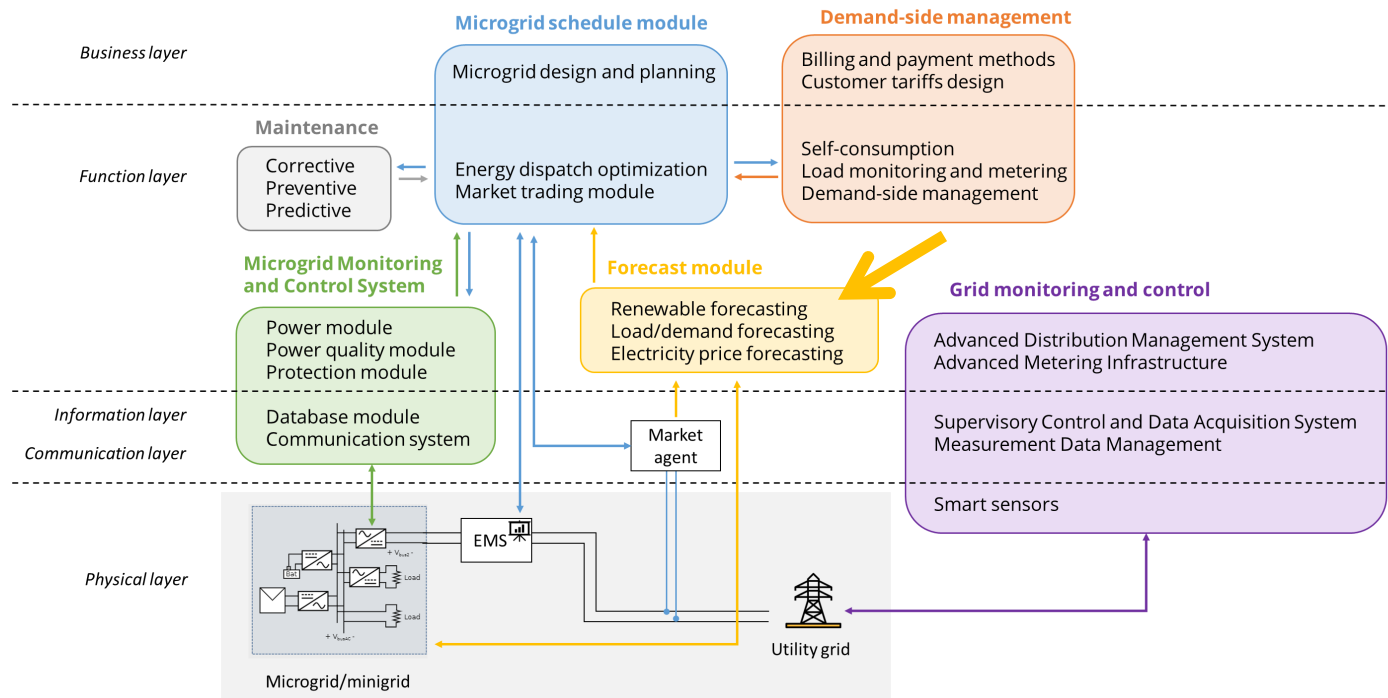
Market trading: manage optimally imported/exported energy flows, while internal energy dispatch is maintained

- ✓ Wholesale market trading
- ✓ Ancillary services provision

Overview and interrelationships of smart microgrids modules. Source: Own elaboration based on [3] IEC. (2018). IEC TS 62898-2:2018: Microgrids - Part 2: Guidelines for operation.



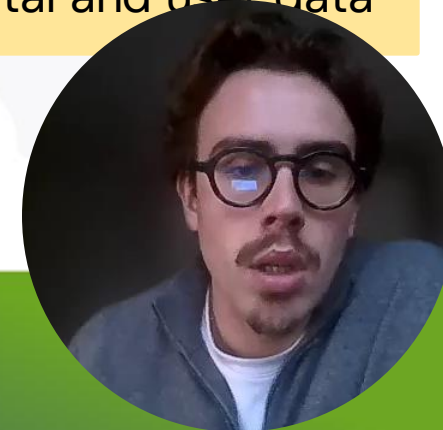
Intelligent energy management (III)



Forecasting module

- ✓ **Load, generation and price predictions**
- ✓ **To support the decision-making process of the dispatch optimization**
- ✓ **Use of historical data, technology features, environmental and user data**

Overview and interrelationships of smart microgrids modules. Source: Own elaboration.

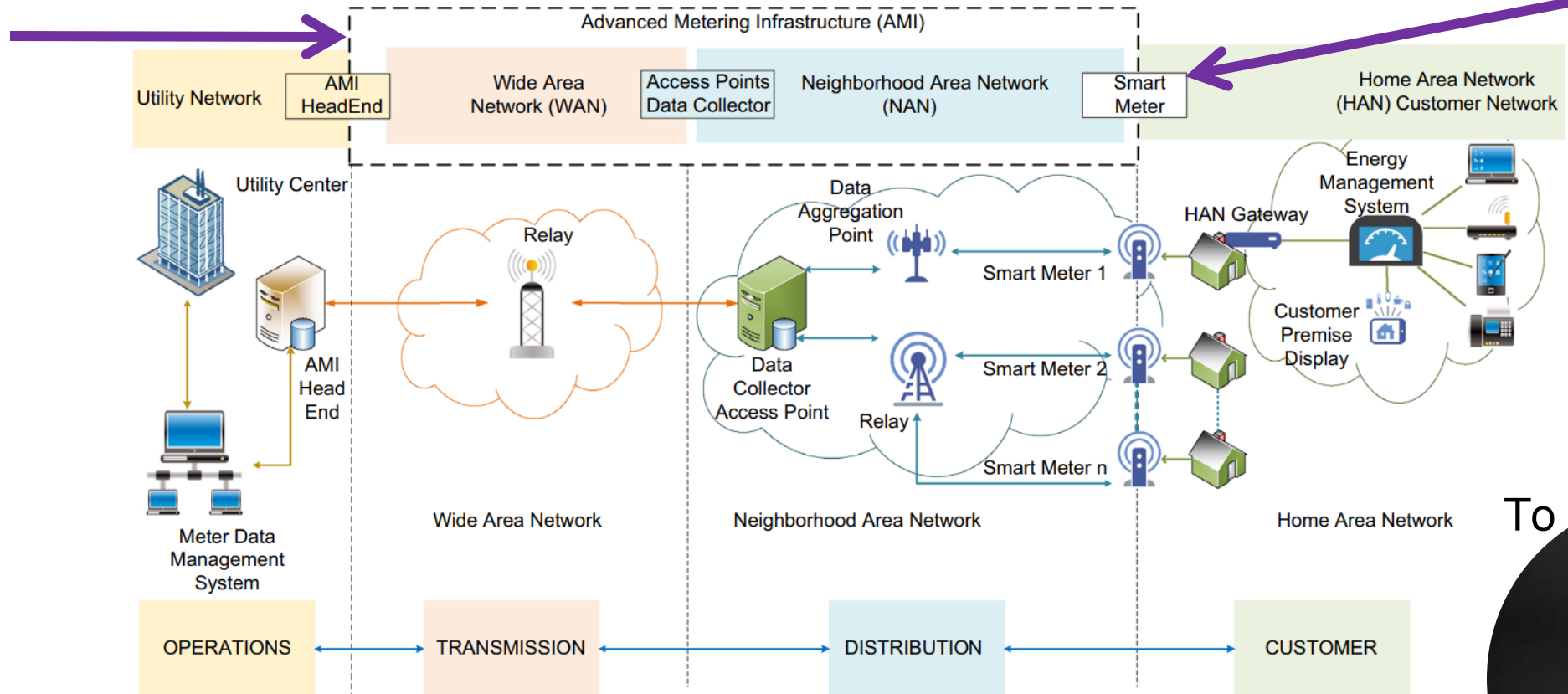


Advanced (micro)grid monitoring

Advanced grid monitoring enables higher grid observability, end-user metering, rapid diagnosis, and other advanced functionalities to supervise and control better smart microgrids [4,5].

**Advanced
Metering
Infrastruc
ture (AMI)**

**Smart
meters/s
ensors**

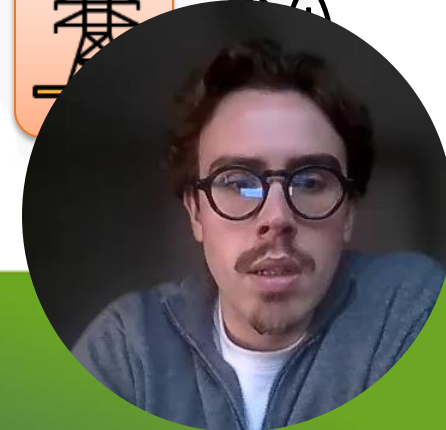
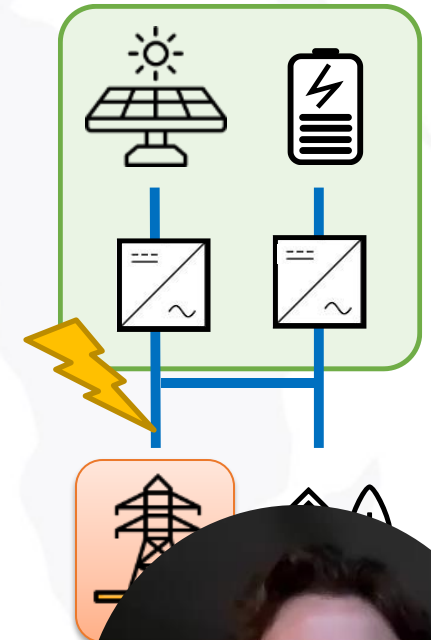


Advanced microgrid power control (I)

Advanced microgrid control needs to perform several functions like **islanding detection and protection**, power quality monitoring and microgrid protection [6,7].

Islanding detection and protection

- Under islanding operation, the **uninterrupted power supply** feeds microgrid loads
- Islanding detection helps in limiting the **fault propagation**
- **Unplanned islanding** can hamper power stability, quality and protection requirements.
- **Detection** by monitoring the rate of change of frequency, voltage fluctuation, etc.



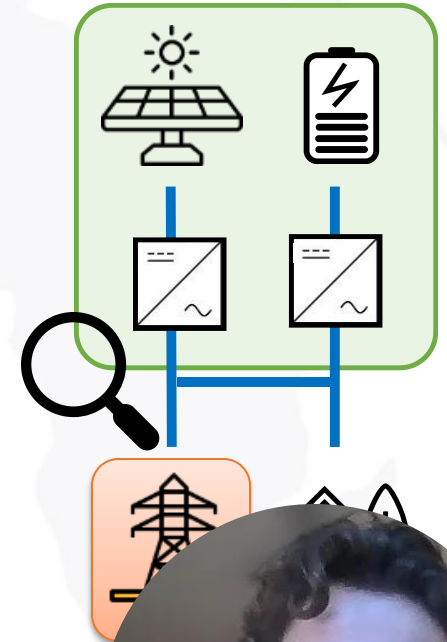
Advanced microgrid power control (II) **tecnal:a**

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Advanced microgrid control needs to perform several functions like islanding detection and protection, **power quality monitoring** and microgrid protection [6,7].

Power quality monitoring

- Avoid **unacceptable disturbances** to microgrid and other network users
- **Monitor** power quality: threshold-crossing, power factor, and harmonic data
- **Power quality techniques** improve voltage fluctuations, harmonics distortions, voltage flicker, three-phase voltage unbalance, direct current offset and voltage dip or sag



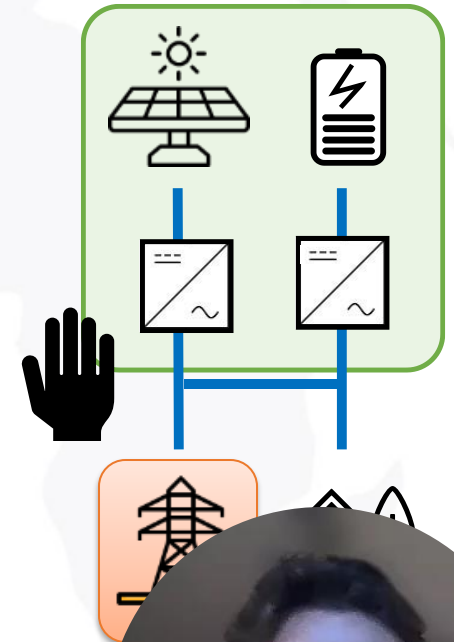
Advanced microgrid power control (III)

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Advanced microgrid control needs to perform several functions like islanding detection and protection, power quality monitoring and **microgrid protection** [6,7].

Microgrid protection

- **Relays** compare the measured data (voltages, currents, power, and frequency) against pre-determined thresholds and, when exceeded, trip signals are sent to the breakers.
- Different protection devices can be implemented:
 - ✓ Voltage-based protection, Overcurrent protection, Differential protection, Distance-based protection
 - ✓ Adaptative devices (real-time data) and other advanced techniques (harmonics, admittance...)



Additional References

- [1] USAID. (2018). What are the technical components of a mini-grid? <https://www.usaid.gov/energy/mini-grids/technical-design/components>
- [2] Micro-Grids – Empowering Communities and Enabling Transformation in Africa | AUDA-NEPAD
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