

*Exceptional service in the national interest*



# PV Output Smoothing using a Battery and Natural Gas Engine-Generator



Acknowledgments of Support to:  
DOE - Office of Electricity  
Dr. Imre Gyuk Electricity Storage Program Manager

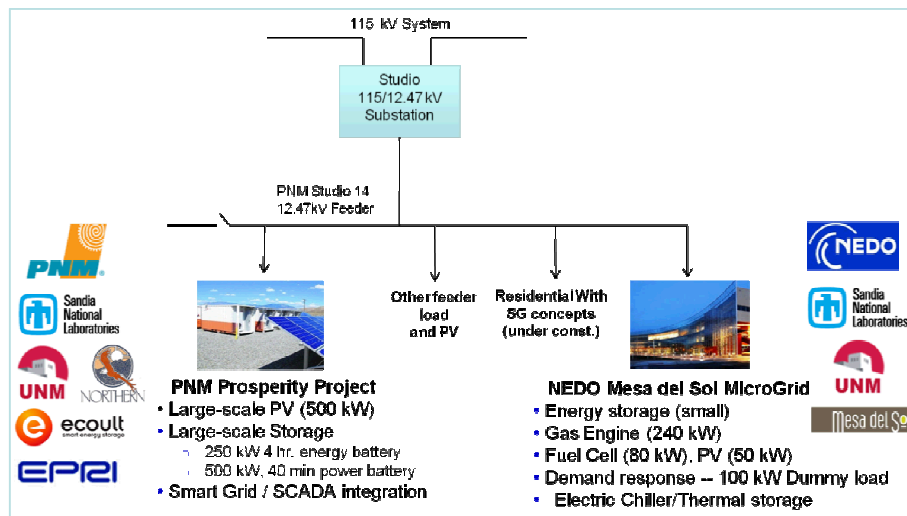
**Jay Johnson and Abraham Ellis**  
Sandia National Laboratories  
Albuquerque, NM



Sandia National Laboratories is a multi-program laboratory managed and operated by Sandia Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Lockheed Martin Corporation, for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-AC04-94AL85000.

# Background on Research Project

- Demonstrate joint operation of the PNM Prosperity Facility and NEDO Microgrid at Mesa Del Sol with distributed, coordinated control
  - Start analysis of Gas Engine – Battery operation for PV output smoothing
  - Controls optimization and plan for future field demonstration
  - Part of a larger PNM vision of renewables and smart grid integration



- The project involving Sandia, PNM, UNM, MdS, Tokyo Gas and Shimizu
- Sandia's effort is sponsored in part by DOE Energy Storage Program

Albuquerque

Albuquerque Airport



Kirtland Air Force Base

**PNM Prosperity Project**

- 500 kW PV
- 500 kW, 330 kWh Smoothing Battery

I-25

I-25



Mesa del Sol



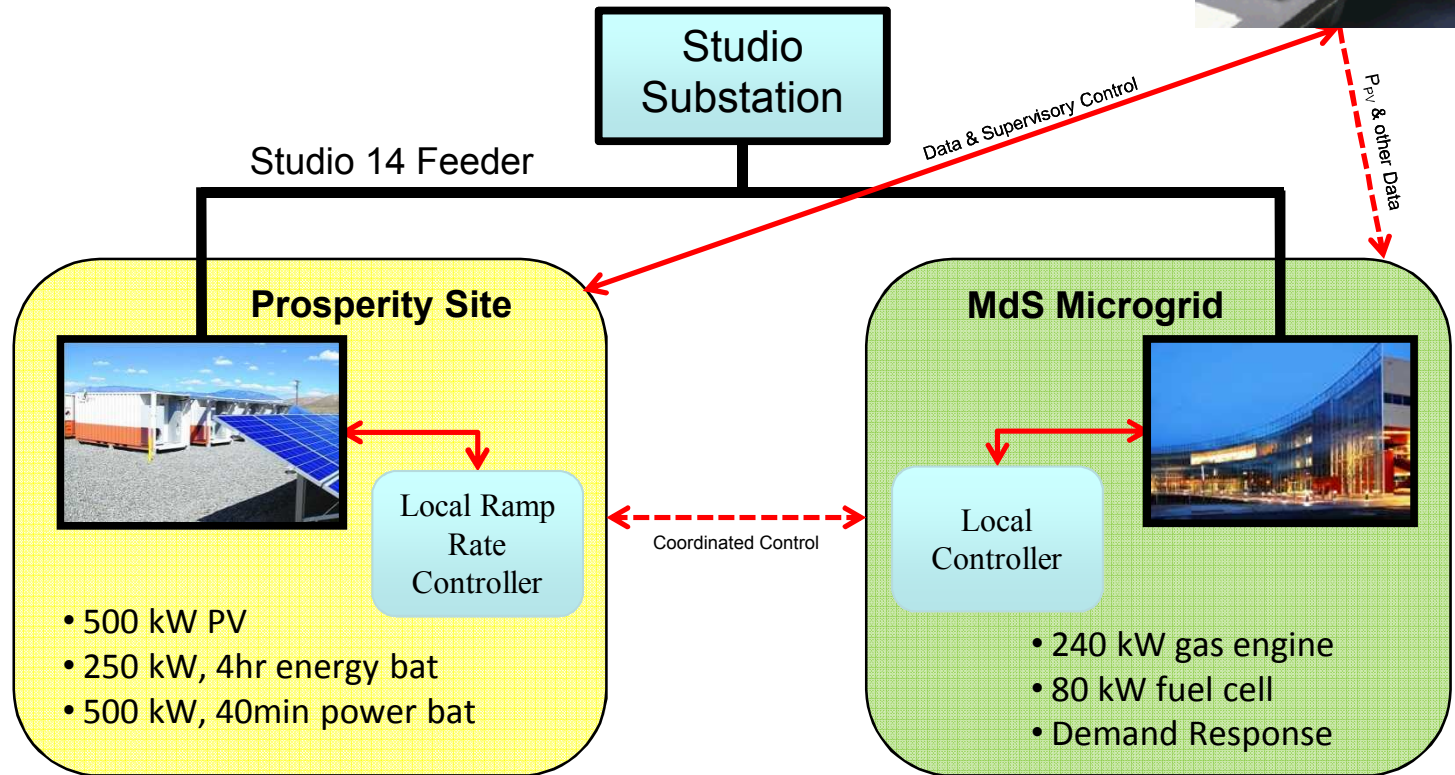
**NEDO Mesa del Sol Aperture Center**

- 240 kW Natural Gas Engine-Generator

# Coordinated Controls

- Data flow the two sites is currently one-way
  - Existing Prosperity PV smoothing control does not take into account MdS gas engine and fuel cell output
  - Evaluated coordinated control with communications (optimal) and without

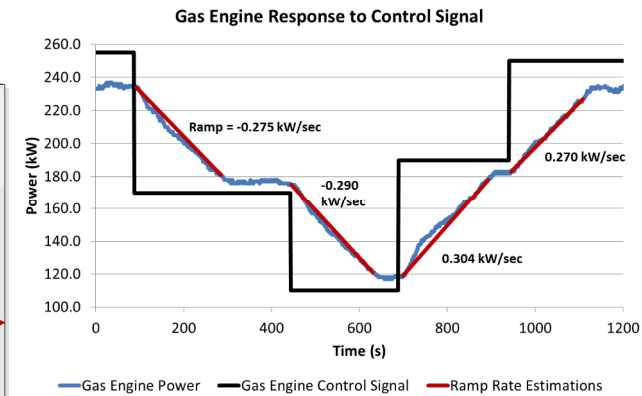
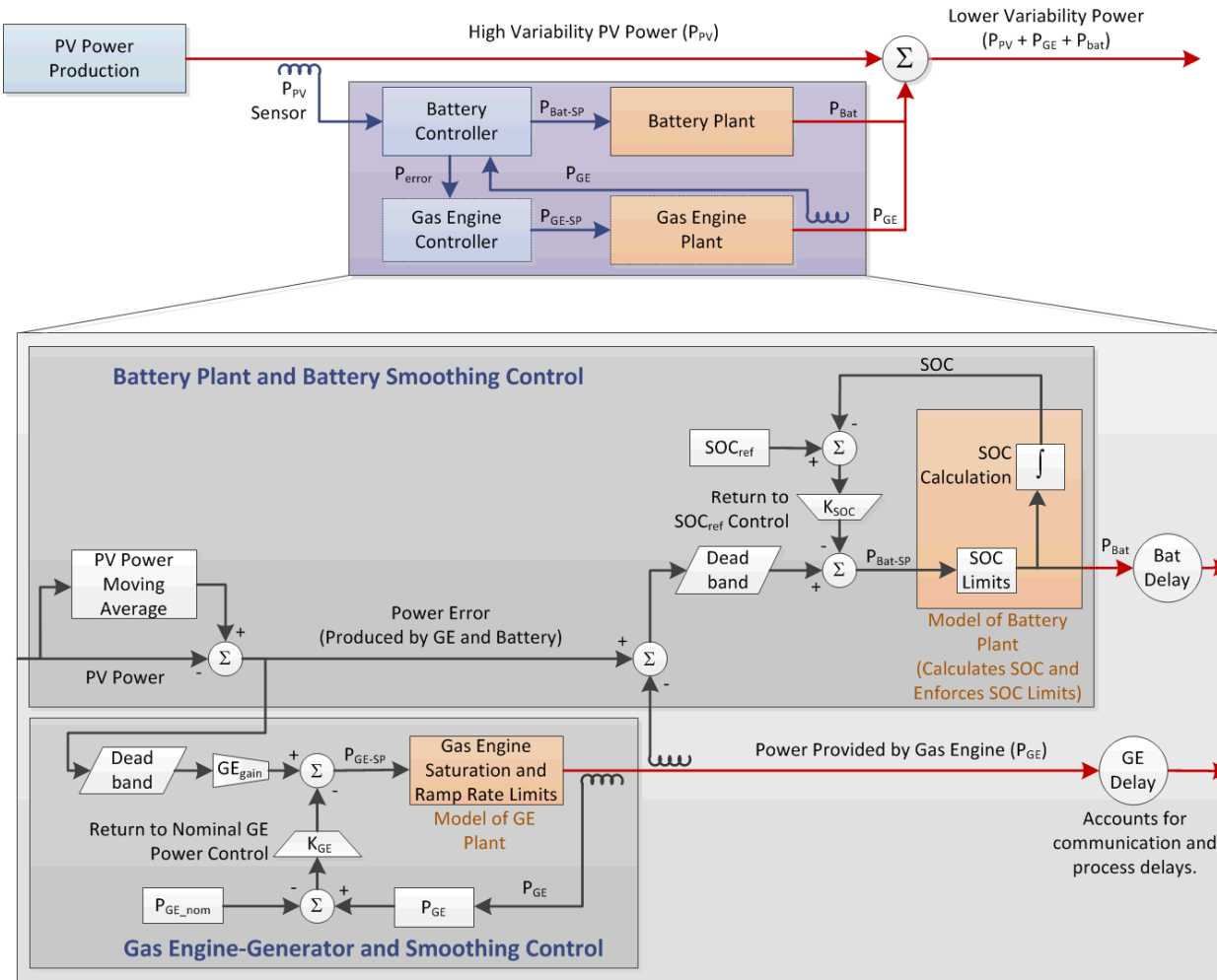
PNM Supervisory



# Control Algorithm Design

- Existing controls
  - Local PV smoothing control implemented at Prosperity
- Extended objective: Demonstrate by simulation coordinated operation of Prosperity battery and MdS gas engine to smooth PV plant output
  - $P_{\text{bat}}$  and  $P_{\text{GE}}$  are controlled to minimize  $P_{\text{smooth}} - P_{\text{pv}}$
  - $P_{\text{smooth}}$  is computed by applying a moving average of  $P_{\text{pv}}$
  - Simple proportional control with deadband, rate limits, and saturation
- Sub-objectives
  - Maintain battery SOC within a prescribed range
  - GE output and battery SOC should recover to a *target level* to avoid saturation (for example, battery SOC =  $0.5 \pm 0.2$  per unit; GE output is  $180 \pm 60$  kW)
  - Optimize according to several possible figures of merit (for example, battery SOC swings or amount of ampere-hour processed)

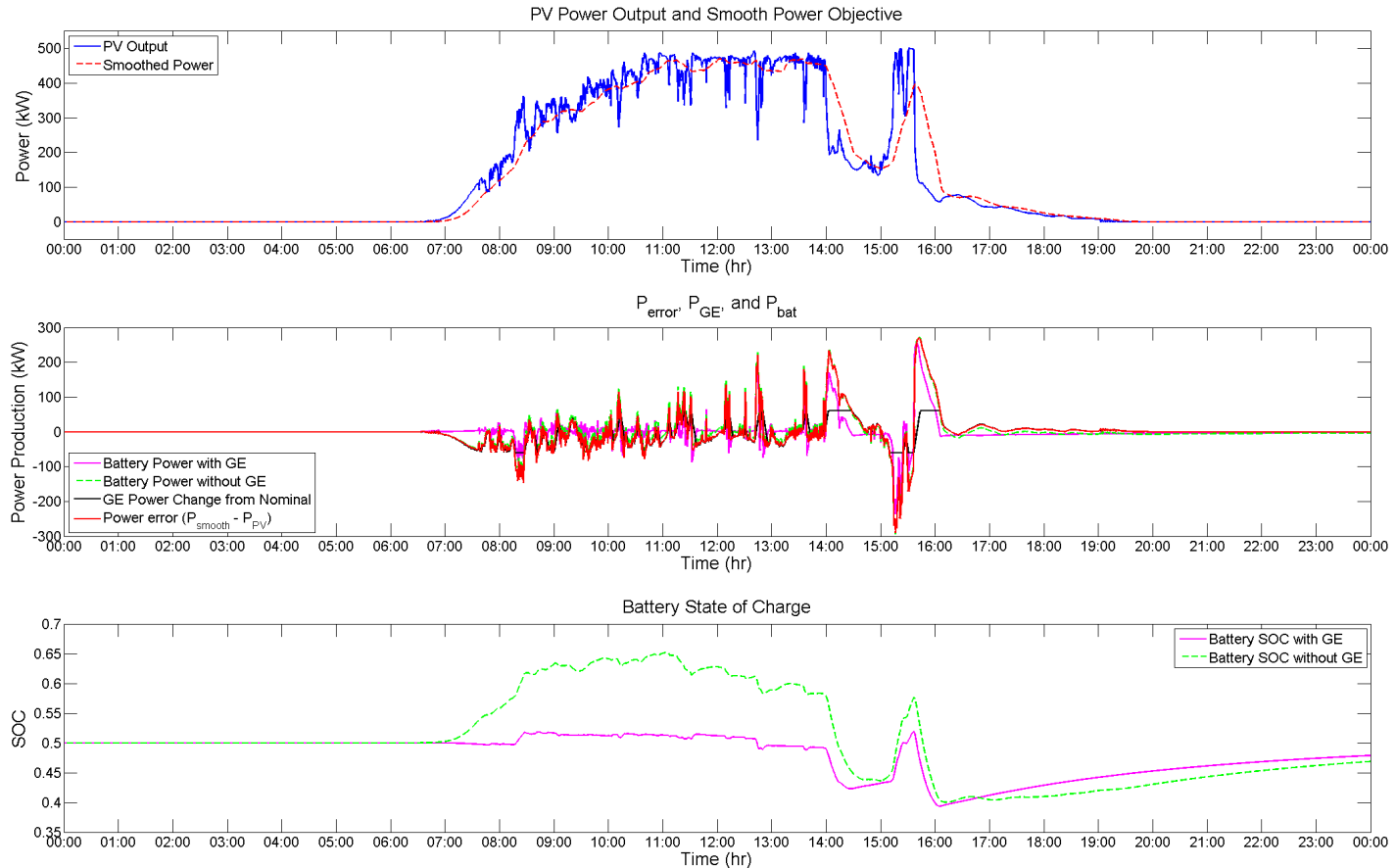
# Control Structure with Communication



Parameter	Default Value	Range of Values
$GE_{gain}$	1	0-1
$T_w$	300 s	300-1800 s
$K_{SOC}$	100	10-1000
$K_{GE}$	$0.2 * GE_{RRSat}$	$0.05 * GE_{RRSat}$ $0.5 * GE_{RRSat}$
GE Delay	0 s	0-5 s

# Joint Operation During an Example Day

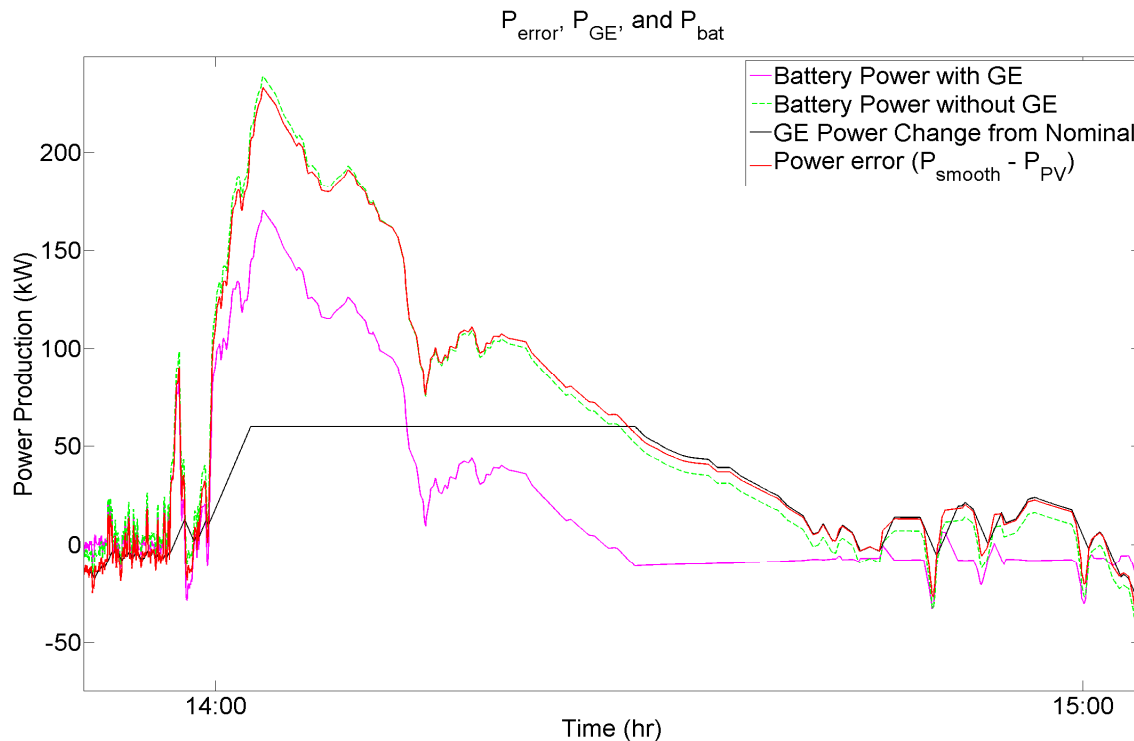
- Same smoothing performance, but much smaller battery SOC swing



NOTE: For ease of comparison, the target level of  $P_{GE}$  (180 kW) was subtracted

# Joint Operation During an Example Day

- The gas engine is slow; battery must respond initially to fast ramps
- However, the gas engine reduces the amount of power from the battery during sustained excursions



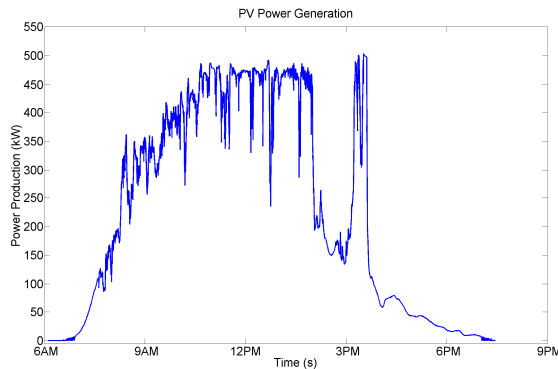
NOTE: For ease of comparison, the target level of  $P_{\text{GE}}$  (180 kW) was subtracted

# Optimization Against Figures of Merit

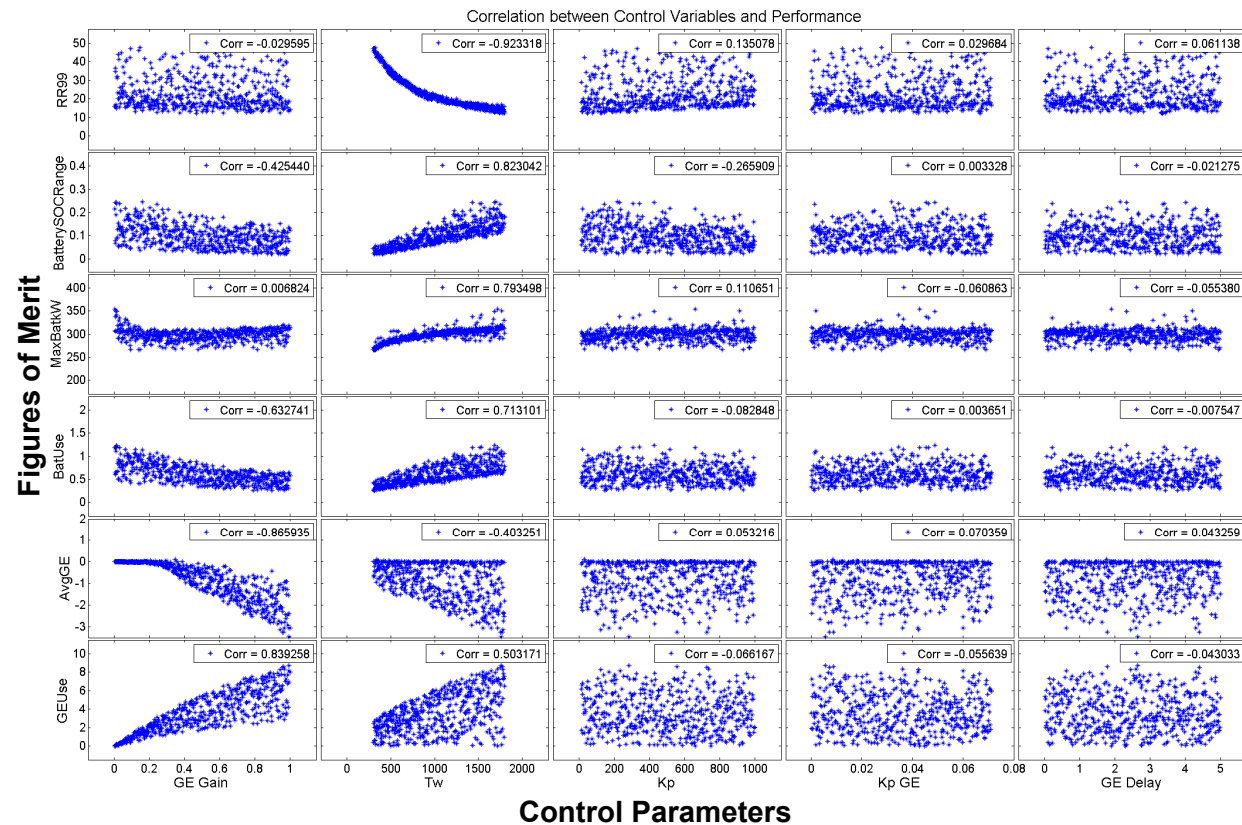
- **RR<sub>99</sub>** = The 1-minute ramp rate in kW/min at the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile of the CDF. This is a good approximation of the performance of control system.
- **BatSOCRange** = This is the range of battery power that was used for the simulation. This is used to predict the required capacity of the battery.
- **MaxBatkW** = The maximum instantaneous output power of the battery during the simulation. This defines the size of the battery and the inverter connected to the battery.
- **BatWork** = Total work done by the battery during the simulation, in GWh (surrogate to amp-hours assuming constant voltage), as defined by:  $\int |P_{Bat}| dt$ . This is related to the lifetime of the battery.
- **AvgGEPower** = The average gas engine power production in kW (referenced from the target level), indicating the amount of additional fuel that the GE uses, ignoring fuel efficiency and acceleration.
- **GEwear** = The amount of GE adjustment during the simulation,  $\int |P_{GE}| dt$ .  
Lower values indicate the GE power was changed often or by larger

# Optimization Against Figures of Merit

- Latin Hypercube technique was used to understand the effect of each control variable on the Figures of Merit
  - Key parameters are  $K_{GE}$  and  $T_w$ . The rest of the parameters have little impact

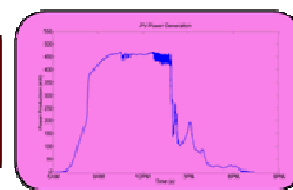
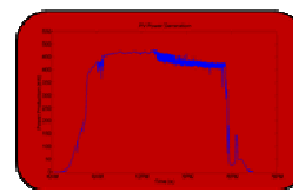
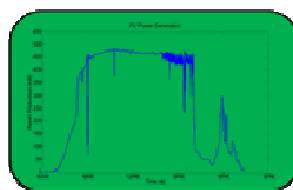
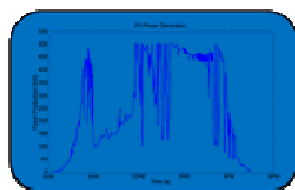
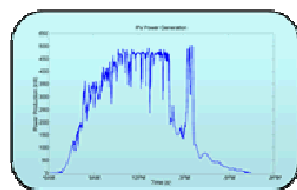
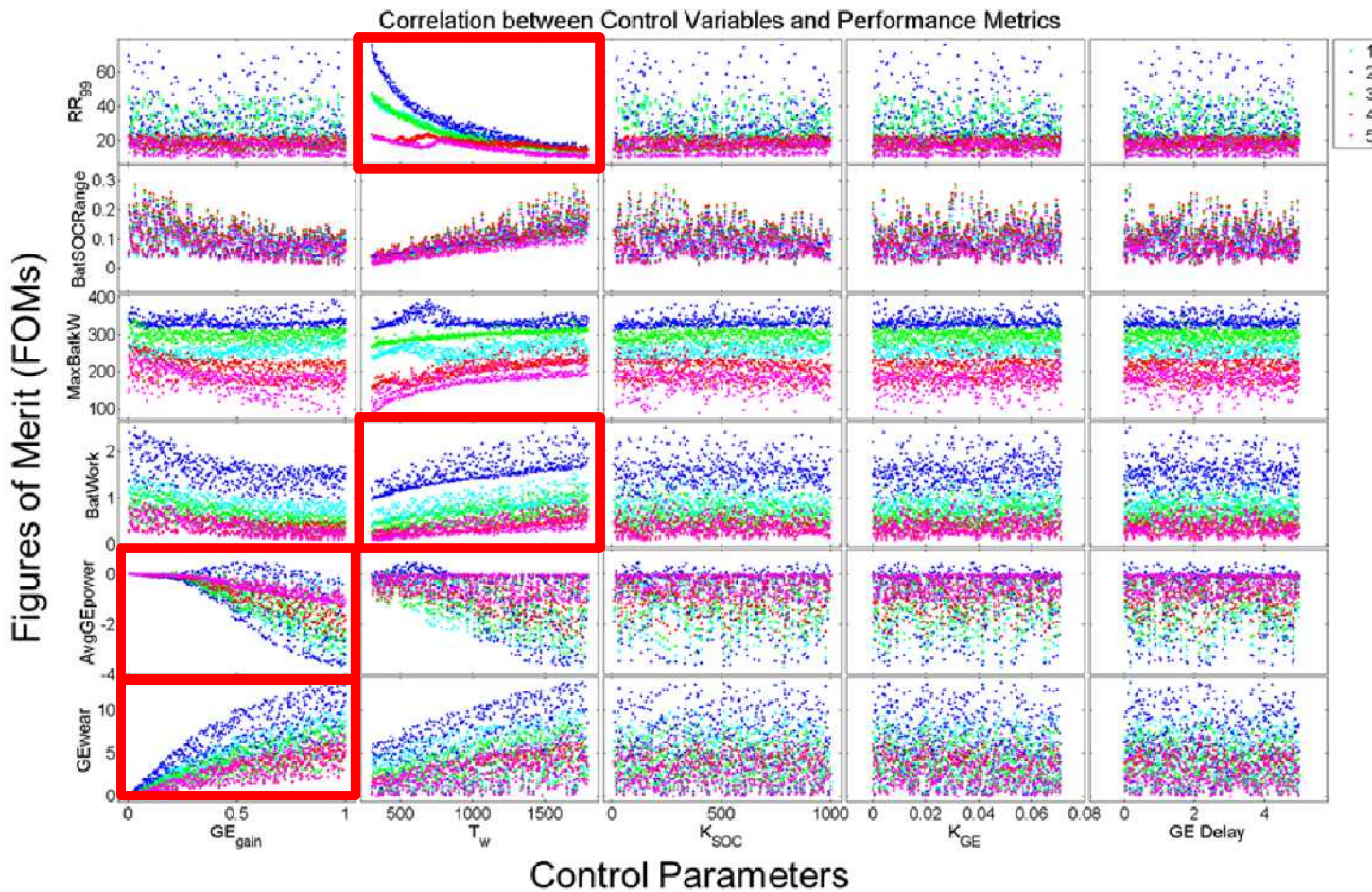


Day 1 Test Day



Parameter	Default Value	Range of Values
$GE_{gain}$	1	0-1
$T_w$	300 s	300-1800 s
$K_{soc}$	100	10-1000
$K_{GE}$	$0.2 * GE_{RR}$ Sat	$0.05 * GE_{RRSat}$ $0.5 * GE_{RRSat}$
GE Delay	0 s	0-5 s

# Correlations for Different Test Days



# Example of Optimization

- Consider a situation where PV ramp rates must be kept below 50 kW/min. The system owner is interested in minimizing the battery size and ensuring reasonably long battery operating life. What would be the optimal control parameters?
  - A simple optimization problem could be setup as follows

$$F_i = K_{RR,i} \cdot [f(\text{BatSOCRange}_i) + f(\text{BatWork}_i)]$$

$$K_{RR,i} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } RR_{99,i} < 50 \text{ kW / min} \\ 0 & \text{if } RR_{99,i} > 50 \text{ kW / min} \end{cases}$$

$$f(\text{BatSOCRange}_i) = w_1 \left( \frac{\max(\text{BatSOCRange}) - \text{BatSOCRange}_i}{\max(\text{BatSOCRange})} \right)$$

$$f(\text{BatWork}_i) = w_2 \left( \frac{\max(\text{BatWork}) - \text{BatWork}_i}{\max(\text{BatWork})} \right)$$

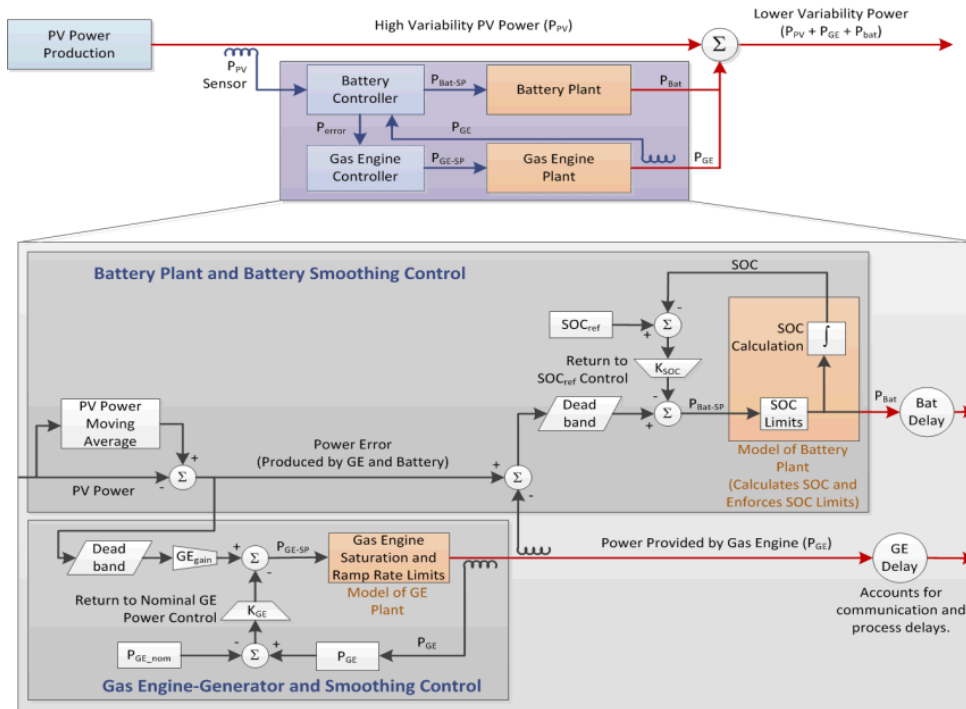
- Optimal parameters:  $T_w = 445$ ,  $GE_{\text{gain}} = 0.53$ , and  $K_{\text{SOC}} = 10.0$

# Coordinated vs. Independent Control Test Plan

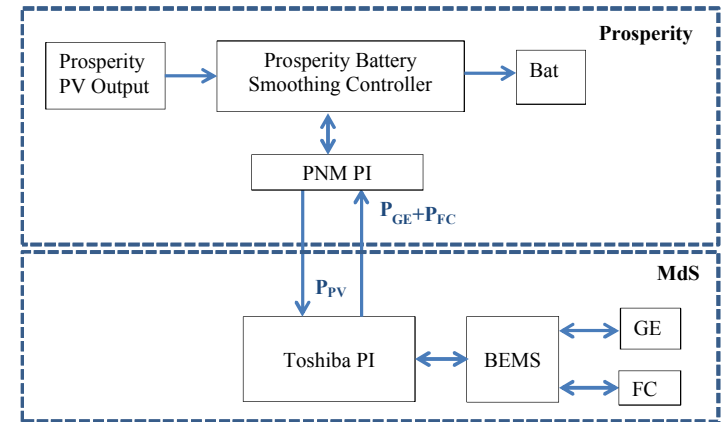
## Summer 2013

### Test A: Real-time demonstration of coordinated control

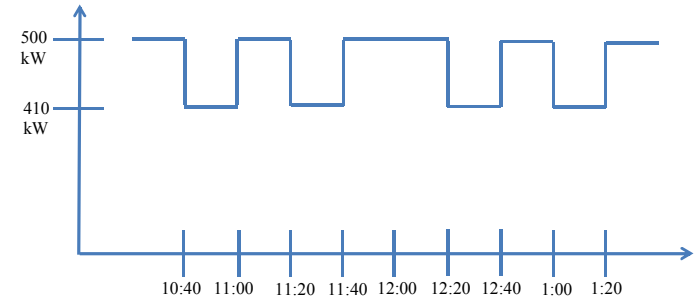
- PV output smoothing using the Prosperity battery with assistance from a gas engine-generator and fuel cell (coordinated control with a PI-to-PI link between prosperity and MdS).
- PV output smoothing using the Prosperity battery with assistance from a gas engine-generator and fuel cell (no coordination between prosperity and MdS).



Coordinated Control



PI-to-PI Interface



Step Changes from Physical Switching

# Conclusions

- Collaboration was successful and key objectives were met
  - Validation of models for GE/battery and smoothing controls
  - Evaluation of control performance against different Figures of Merit
    - Basis for control optimization and future field test of coordinated control
  - Also evaluated impact of communications and communications delays
  - UNM working on electrical simulations
  - SAND2013-1603 report published in February
  
- Future steps
  - Sandia, PNM, UNM, NEDO, Tokyo Gas and Shimizu joint PVSC publication
  - Develop field demonstration plan