

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

# NORME INTERNATIONALE



**Application integration at electric utilities – System interfaces for distribution management –  
Part 5: Distributed energy optimization**

**Intégration d'applications pour les services électriques – Interfaces système pour la gestion de distribution –  
Partie 5: Optimisation de l'énergie distribuée**



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## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**APPLICATION INTEGRATION AT ELECTRIC UTILITIES –  
SYSTEM INTERFACES FOR DISTRIBUTION MANAGEMENT –****Part 5: Distributed energy optimization**

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International Standard IEC 61968-5 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 57: Power systems management and associated information exchange.

The text of this International Standard is based on the following documents:

FDIS	Report on voting
57/2223/FDIS	57/2252/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this International Standard can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

This document has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

A list of all parts in the IEC 61968 series, published under the general title *Application integration at electric utilities – System interfaces for distribution management*, can be found on the IEC website.

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## INTRODUCTION

Technology advancements in various types of distributed energy resources (DER), have driven increases in their evaluation and employment by utilities, consumers, and third parties. These DER are often connected to the grid at the distribution level where their presence in large scale or volume could be disruptive if not designed, integrated, and managed properly.

Inverters, the power converter circuits that integrate DER to the grid, are highly-capable devices with fast power controls and no inherent inertia such that they can respond quickly to commands and local conditions. Even small-scale inverters tend to have processing and memory resources and can support a variety of communication protocols and advanced functions. Over the last few years, industry efforts have defined a wide range of standard grid-supportive functions that inverters may provide and standard communication protocols that allow these functions to be remotely monitored and managed.

If these inverter capabilities can be properly exposed and integrated into traditional utility system operations, high penetration DER can be transformed from problematic uncertainties to beneficial tools for distribution management. To achieve these potential benefits, it needs to be possible not just to communicate to individual DER devices using standard protocols, but also for the systems that manage DER, referred to herein as DER Management System or "DERMS", to effectively inform other software applications regarding the resources available and to exchange information that allows the DER to be managed effectively. Additionally, due to scale of some devices, to optimize the management of DER they are managed in aggregate, referred hereafter as "DER group management".

Traditionally, distribution systems have been operated without extensive controls or centralized management. More advanced systems may have On-Load Tap Changing transformers (LTCs) at substations, line regulators, and/or capacitor banks that operate to help optimize distribution voltage and reactive power flow. In many cases, these devices may be fixed or configured to operate autonomously. In a growing number of cases, however, a more central Distribution Management System (DMS) has been used to coordinate their behaviour for a more optimized overall effect. DMS functionality may reside at the utility operations centre, where single, large-scale software manages many circuits, or it may reside in a more limited fashion at the substation or other level, where smaller-scale systems act to manage individual feeders or circuits.

Regardless of the scenario, the present generation of DMS systems is not designed to take advantage of the capabilities that DER may offer. In most cases, DER support within a DMS is limited to monitoring the output of "utility scale" DERs (> one megawatt). In addition, existing industry standards define advanced functions for DER only at the individual device level, and lack the more aggregated, feeder-level representations that are useful for enterprise integration.

This document develops appropriate enterprise-level functions for the integration of distributed energy resources. These functions are intended to work in conjunction with the common functions for smart inverters that have previously been defined.

The high-level use cases that are covered include management of DER group membership, DER group status monitoring, DER group forecasting, and dispatching of real and reactive power and other capabilities of managing DER as aggregated groups.

The IEC 61968 standard, taken as a whole, defines interfaces for the major elements of interface architecture for Distribution Management Systems (DMS). Part 1: *Interface Architecture and General Recommendations*, identifies and establishes requirements for standard interfaces based on an Interface Reference Model (IRM). Parts 3-9 of this standard define interfaces relevant to each of the major business functions described by the Interface Reference Model.

As used in IEC 61968, a DMS consists of various distributed application components for the utility to manage electrical distribution networks. These capabilities include monitoring and control of equipment for power delivery, management processes to ensure system reliability, voltage management, demand-side management, outage management, work management, automated mapping and facilities management.

This set of standards is limited to the definition of interfaces and is implementation independent. They provide for interoperability among different computer systems, platforms, and languages. Methods and technologies used to implement functionality conforming to these interfaces are considered outside of the scope of these standards; only the interface itself is specified in these standards.

# APPLICATION INTEGRATION AT ELECTRIC UTILITIES – SYSTEM INTERFACES FOR DISTRIBUTION MANAGEMENT –

## Part 5: Distributed energy optimization

### 1 Scope

The scope of this part of IEC 61968 is the description of a set of functions that are needed for enterprise integration of DERMS functions. These exchanges are most likely between a DERMS and a DMS. However, since this is an enterprise integration standard which may leverage IEC 61968-100:2013 for application integration (using web services or JMS) or other loosely-coupled implementations, there are no technical limitations for systems with which a DERMS might exchange information. Also, it should be noted that a DERMS might communicate with individual DER using a variety of standards and protocols such as IEC 61850, IEEE 2030.5, Distribution Network Protocol (DNP), Sunspec Modbus, or perhaps Open Field Message Bus (OpenFMB). One role of the DERMS is to manage this disparity and complexity of communications on the behalf of the system operator. However, the communication to individual DER is out of scope of this standard. Readers are invited to look to those standards to understand communication to individual DERs' smart inverter.

The scope will be limited to the following use case categories:

- DER group creation – a mechanism to manage DER in aggregate
- DER group maintenance – a mechanism to add, remove, or modify the members and/or aggregated capabilities of a given group of DER
- DER group deletion – removing an entire group
- DER group status monitoring – a mechanism for quantifying or ascertaining the current capabilities and/or status of a group of DER
- DER group forecast – a mechanism for predicting the capabilities and/or status of a group of DER for a given time period in the future
- DER group dispatch – a mechanism for requesting that specified capabilities of a group of DER be dispatched to the grid
- DER group voltage ramp rate control – a mechanism for requesting that a DER group following a ramp rate curve
- DER group connect/disconnect – a mechanism to request that DER either isolate themselves, or reconnect to the grid as needed

To support use cases in the preceding categories, this document specifies the following data requirements (profiles) as shown in Table 1:

**Table 1 – IEC 61968-5 Profiles**

DERGroups	DERGroupQueries
DERGroupStatuses	DERGroupStatusQueries
DERGroupForecasts	DERGroupForecastQueries
DERGroupDispatches	DERGroupQueries

The profiles in the left column of Table 1 are the "base" DER profiles and appear in the Payload section of IEC 61968-100 compliant messages. Those in the right column of Table 1 are the "query" profiles that appear in the Request section of IEC 61968-100 compliant messages and are used to specify the query parameters when using the "get" CIM verb.