Guest Editorial Special Issue on Power Electronics for Distributed Energy Resources

DISTRIBUTED energy resources (DERs) are any energy resources in the electrical distribution systems, which can produce electricity, consume or store energy in a controlled manner, or be utilized to improve energy efficiency. They are typically smaller in scale than the traditional large-generation facilities. DERs include distributed generation units, energy storage facilities including electric vehicles, and controlled loads. Power electronic technologies, as the focus of this Special Issue, are critical to enabling the integration, protection, performance, and interoperability of DERs in power systems. DERs are rapidly growing in the global electricity market and are entering into power systems as an integral part of the system thanks to the increasing penetration of renewable energy and energy storage units. The technologies for DERs have advanced significantly over the past two decades and so have the DER interconnection standards. In addition to meeting the requirements for power system specifications, safety, and protection, DERs are required to support grid operation in recently developed interconnection standards by providing functions of voltage and frequency ride-throughs, voltage and frequency regulations, or inertial responses.

In addition to the increased functionality of DERs for supporting power systems, the performance of DER power converters has experienced significant improvements during the past decades, noticeably in efficiency, size, weight, cost, switching frequency, thermal management, dynamics, compatibility, security, and reliability. In particular, the advancement in wide-bandgap devices has enabled power converters to be more efficient, lighter, smaller in form factor, and operate at even higher frequencies and elevated temperatures with reduced cooling. It is expected that the continuing advancements in power electronic components, control methods, and integration technologies will further enhance the performance and functionality of the DER systems along with their increased level of penetration into electric grids.

This Special Issue is devoted to the state-of-the-art technologies of power electronics for DERs, encompassing components, circuits and systems, control, protection, and verification. After rigorous reviews of 99 manuscripts submitted by professionals worldwide, 35 papers were accepted for publication, of which 31 papers were included in this Special Issue and four papers were included as regular papers. These papers presented a glimpse of the recent developments of power electronics for DERs with applications for energy storage systems, grid-connected PV systems, solid-state transformers, and dc or ac microgrids. The topics of these papers are quite broad from converter topologies, modeling and design, converter control and modulation, system control and grid support, protection and security, and test and verification, as summarized in the following. It was noted that with the exception of review papers, all other reported new technologies were experimentally verified by the authors.

Many papers in this Special Issue are focused on the fundamental and essential matters within power converters for DERs. Eleven papers presented new power converter control and modulation methods, on the topics of double-side asymmetrical phase-shift modulation for dual-active-bridge converters [A1]; simplified finite-set model predictive control for optimal voltage vectors for cascaded H-bridge converters [A2]; modified pulse-width modulation for active neutral-point clamped switched-capacitor multilevel inverters with inrush charging current attenuation and balanced dc-link capacitor voltages [A3]; output-error-driven incremental model predictive control for buck converters [A4]; a robust control scheme for single-phase grid-tied inverters including hybrid phase-locked loop, sliding mode current control for power injection and sliding mode voltage control for dc-link voltage [A5]; a current estimation technique for integrated dual-dc boost converters [A6]; a model predictive current control method based on optimal switching sequence for four-leg two-level grid-connected converters [A7]; a selective harmonic elimination formulation based on average dc voltage for three-phase cascaded H-bridge multilevel converters [A8]; a control strategy for active, reactive and selective distortion power in single-phase grid-following inverters [A9]; a virtual oscillator based frequency-locked loop in a virtual synchronous machine [A10]; and a fictitious quadrature sequence components extraction scheme without any filters [A11].

Eleven papers reported new developments in power converter topologies, components, and designs. The topics include: SiC-based integrated building blocks for two-level dc–dc solid-state transformers [A12]; topological solutions for universal power electronic interface for dc or single-phase ac grids [A13]; a modular and universal power converter for dc-to-dc and dc-to-ac power conversion in both three-phase three-wire and four-wire connections [A14]; review and comparison of high voltage-step-down ratio dc–dc converters based on modular multilevel converters for

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grid-tied energy storage systems [A15]; improved active gate drivers for paralleled SiC MOSFETs [A16]; a reduced-switch hybrid dual-active bridge converter for direct ac–ac solid-state transformers [A17]; a mission profile-tailored design procedure and control for an interconnected hybrid grid connecting converter architecture [A18]; sub-modules based on HV IGBTs and SiC MOSFETs for medium-voltage cascaded H-bridge converters in DER applications [A19]; a new cascaded H-bridge inverter with input voltage boost capacity and associated controls [A20]; a single-stage matrix-type solid-state transformer with reduced switches [A21]; and methods for modeling capacitor voltage ripples and sizing capacitors for three-phase four-wire converters [A22].

Five papers elaborated system level controls of DERs interacting with grids or supporting system operation, with topics on adaptive frequency droop control based on virtual power method for distributed energy storage units [A23]; active power compensation for microgrids [A24]; series dc-bus voltage compensation technique for voltage regulation in dc microgrids [A25]; a nonisolated dc energy router integrating energy storage, distributed generation, local loads, and dc grid [A26]; and an overview of the state-of-the-art control strategies for voltage support by PV inverters in low voltage distribution networks [A27].

Two papers were devoted to the topics of protection and security of DER converters and systems: a current limiting type of fault ride-through scheme for power converters in dc microgrids [A28] and a self-protective algorithm for inverters to detect malicious setpoints [A29].

Two papers were related to the verification of DER systems and technologies by using emulators and hardware-in-the-loop systems: an overview of testing capacity requirements of grid emulators based on recent grid standards [A30] and right-half-plane pole trajectory study for impedance-based stability monitoring using a power-hardware-in-the-loop system [A31].

The Guest Associate Editors (GAEs) of this Special Issue have made tremendous efforts in managing the review process of the submitted manuscripts, ensuring the quality, originality, and relevance for the publication of this Special Issue. We would like to take this opportunity to extend our deep gratitude to these amazing GAE colleagues worldwide:

1) Hanh-Phuc Le, University of California San Diego, San Diego, CA, USA.
2) Xiaonan Lu, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, USA.
3) Yongheng Yang, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China.
4) Gab-Su Seo, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Golden, CO, USA.
5) Sibylle Dieckerhoff, Technische Universitat Berlin, Berlin, Germany.
6) Elisabetta Tedeschi, Norwegian NTNU, Trondheim, Norway.
7) Prasad Enjeti, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, USA.
8) Juan Balda, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR, USA.
9) Jose Fernando Jimenez Vargas, Los Andes University, Bogotá, Colombia.
10) Xu She, Lunar Energy, Mountain View, CA, USA.
11) Fangzhou Zhao, Aalborg University, Aalborg, Denmark.
12) Santanu K. Mishra, IIT Kanpur, Kanpur, India.

LIUCHEN CHANG, *Guest Editor*
University of New Brunswick AQ:1
Fredericton, NB E3B 5A3, Canada
e-mail: LChang@unb.ca

SUDIP K. MAZUMDER, *Guest Editor*
University of Illinois Chicago
Chicago, IL 60607 USA
e-mail: mazumder@uic.edu

MARTA MOLINAS, *Guest Editor*
Norwegian University of Science and Technology AQ:2
7034 Trondheim, Norway
e-mail: marta.molinas@ntnu.no

APPENDIX: RELATED ARTICLES AQ:3

[A1] J. Tian, F. Wang, F. Zhuo, and H. Deng, "A full-power-range optimization scheme under double-side asymmetrical phase-shift modulation in DAB-based distributed energy storage system," *IEEE J. Emerg. Sel. Topics Power Electron.*, early access, Mar. 10, 2023, doi: 10.1109/JESTPE.2023.3255517.

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Liuchen Chang (Senior Member, IEEE) received the Ph.D. degree in 1991. AQ:4

He worked briefly in the industry. Then, he joined the University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, NB, Canada, in 1992. He is now a Professor Emeritus. He was the NSERC Chair in Environmental Design Engineering from 2001 to 2007 and the Principal Investigator of the Canadian Wind Energy Strategic Network from 2008 to 2014. He has published more than 400 refereed papers in journals and conference proceedings. He has focused on research, development, demonstration, and deployment of renewable energy-based distributed energy systems.

Dr. Chang is a fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering. He was a recipient of the CanWEA R. J. Templin Award, the Innovation Award for Excellence in Applied Research in New Brunswick, and the PELS Sustainable Energy Systems Technical Achievement Award. He has been an IEEE volunteer for over 30 years, including serving as the VP for conferences from 2017 to 2020 and the President of the IEEE Power Electronics Society from 2021 to 2022.

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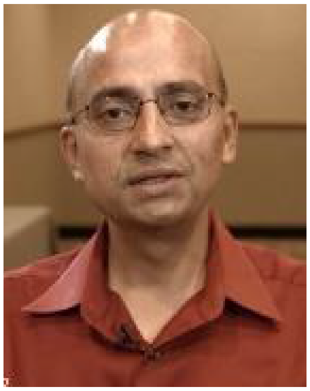

Sudip K. Mazumder (Fellow, IEEE) received the Ph.D. degree in electrical and computer engineering from Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, USA, in 2001.

He is currently a UIC Distinguished Professor and the Director of the Laboratory for Energy and Switching-Electronics Systems (LESES), Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Illinois Chicago (UIC), Chicago, IL, USA, which he joined in 2001. He has over 30 years of professional experience and has held research and development and design positions in leading industrial organizations and has served as a technical consultant for several industries. He has been serving as the President of NextWatt LLC, San Francisco, CA, USA, since 2008.

Dr. Mazumder is a fellow of AAAS and AAIA. He served as an IEEE Distinguished Lecturer from 2016 to 2019. He has been serving as an Administrative Committee Member and the Member-at-Large for IEEE PELS, since 2015 and 2020, respectively. He was a recipient of the 2023 IEEE Power and Energy Society's Ramakumar Family Renewable Energy Excellence Award. He served as the Chair for the IEEE PELS Technical Committee on Sustainable Energy Systems from 2015 to 2020. He serves as the General Co-Chair for the 2024 IEEE ECCE and the General Chair for 2023 IEEE PEDG 2023. He has been serving as the Editor-in-Large for IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON POWER ELECTRONICS(TPEL) since 2019

Marta Molinas (Fellow, IEEE) received the Doctor of Engineering degree from the Tokyo Institute of Technology, Tokyo, Japan, in 2000.

She was a JSPS Fellow at AIST Tsukuba, Tokyo, from 2008 to 2009. From 2008 to 2014, she was a Professor at the Department of Electric Power Engineering, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim, Norway, where she has been a Professor at the Department of Engineering Cybernetics since 2014. From 2013 to 2014, she was a Visiting Professor at Columbia University, New York City, NY, USA. She was a JSPS Fellow at the Human Sleep Laboratory, International Institute of Integrative Sleep Medicine, University of Tsukuba, Tsukuba, Japan, from 2021 to 2022. Her research interests are on the stability of power electronics systems and nonstationary signal analysis in humans and machines.

Dr. Molinas was the Bhutan Prime Minister Fellow at the Kingdom of Bhutan. She is a member of the Editorial Board of *Scientific Reports*, an Editor of IEEE JOURNAL OF EMERGING AND SELECTED TOPICS IN POWER ELECTRONICS, and an Associate Editor of IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON POWER ELECTRONICS.