

# The Role of Energy Storage in Off- and On-Grid Electric Power Systems

**Prof. Dr.-Ing. João Tavares Pinho**

**Full Professor at the Federal University of Pará - UFPA**

**Researcher of Group of Studies and Development of Energy Alternatives - GEDAE**

**President of the Brazilian Solar Energy Association – ABENS**

## GROUP OF STUDIES AND DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY ALTERNATIVES

- **Founded in November 1994 at the Federal University of Pará, Brazil**
- **Activities on Solar and Wind Energy, Hybrid Systems, Energy Efficiency and Energy Quality**
- **Activities of teaching, research, project development and implementation, consulting, etc.**
- **Currently has 37 members (5 professors, 1 secretary, 1 technician, and graduate, undergraduate and high school students)**

## BRAZILIAN SOLAR ENERGY ASSOCIATION

- Non-profit legal entity with academic and scientific character
- **Founded on February 17<sup>th</sup>, 1978**
- Reactivated on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007
- Promotes Solar Energy *lato sensus* (direct solar, wind, hydro, biomass, etc.)
- Publishes a Scientific Journal (**RBENS**) and an Informative Report
- Organizes biannual congresses (**CBENS**) and annual meetings

- ✓ Storage is the Achilles' heel of any energy systems
- ✓ There is no way of supplying dispatchable (**reliably and continuously**) energy without storing it
- ✓ **Fuel tank, nuclear fuel depot, water dam, battery, etc.**
- ✓ Environmental impacts are mainly due to storage and transportation



- ✓ Types of electricity storage frequently used:
  - lead-acid batteries: cheaper, low energy density
  - Redox-flow batteries: longer lifetime, complicated operation
  - Lithium-ion batteries: high energy density, protection required
- ✓ Costs are still a barrier (expected cost drop for batteries)

# World's first microgrid

The Manhattan Pearl Street Station (coal)

September 4<sup>th</sup>, 1882 (136 years)

DC microgrid (82 consumers / 400 lamps)

In 1884 (508 consumers / 10,164 lamps) –  
519 % / 2,441 %



Edison Illuminating Company (T. A. Edison) (now GE)

In the following four years 58 DC microgrids were installed

Afterwards, the transformation to AC grids, as monopoly  
regulated by the government (extinction of the DC  
microgrids – return after 2009)

- ✓ Energy sources frequently used:
  - Fuel generators (diesel)
  - Solar (photovoltaics)
  - Wind (small size)
  - Hydro (small size)
  - Biomass (combustion, gasification, biogas)
- ✓ Hybrid systems (two or more sources and storage)



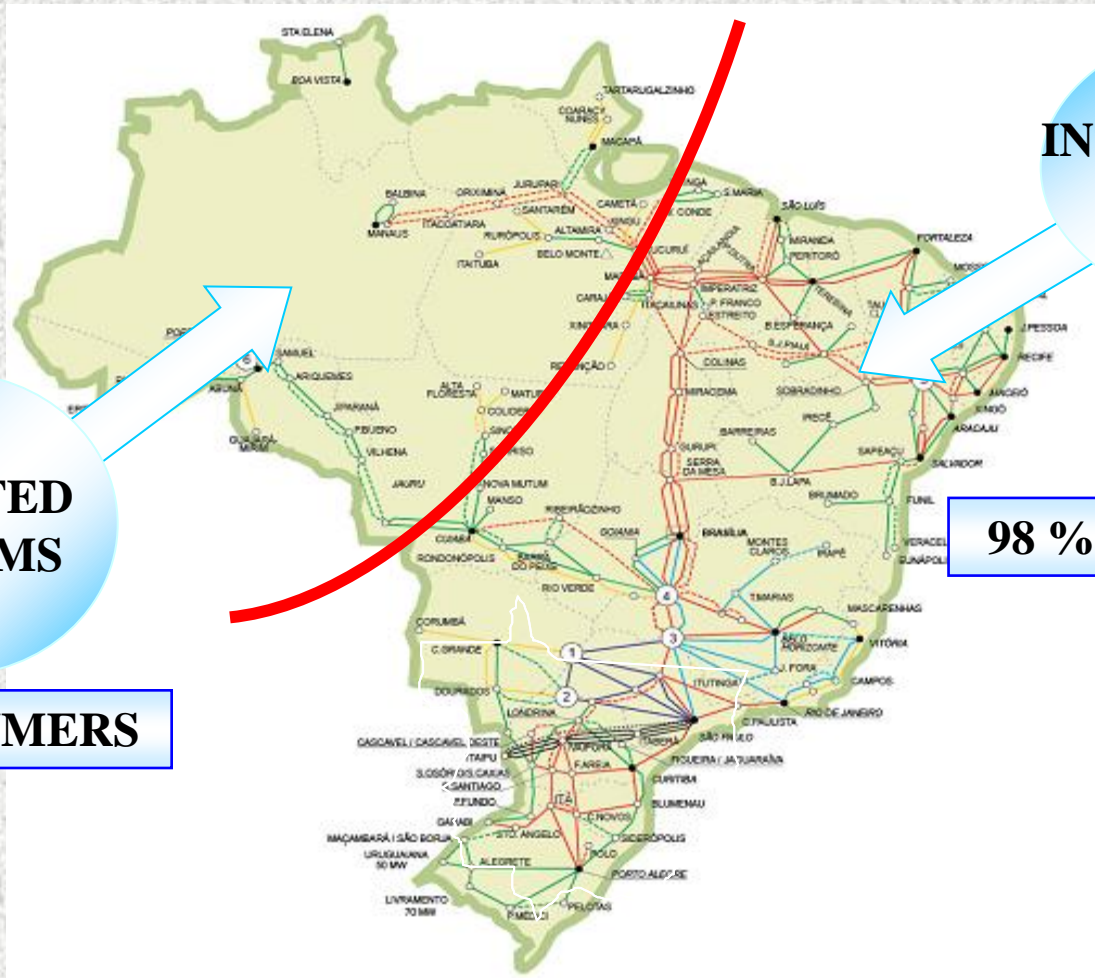
# Brazilian electricity system

**ISOLATED  
SYSTEMS**

**2 % OF CONSUMERS**

**INTERCONNECTED  
SYSTEM**

**98 % OF CONSUMERS**



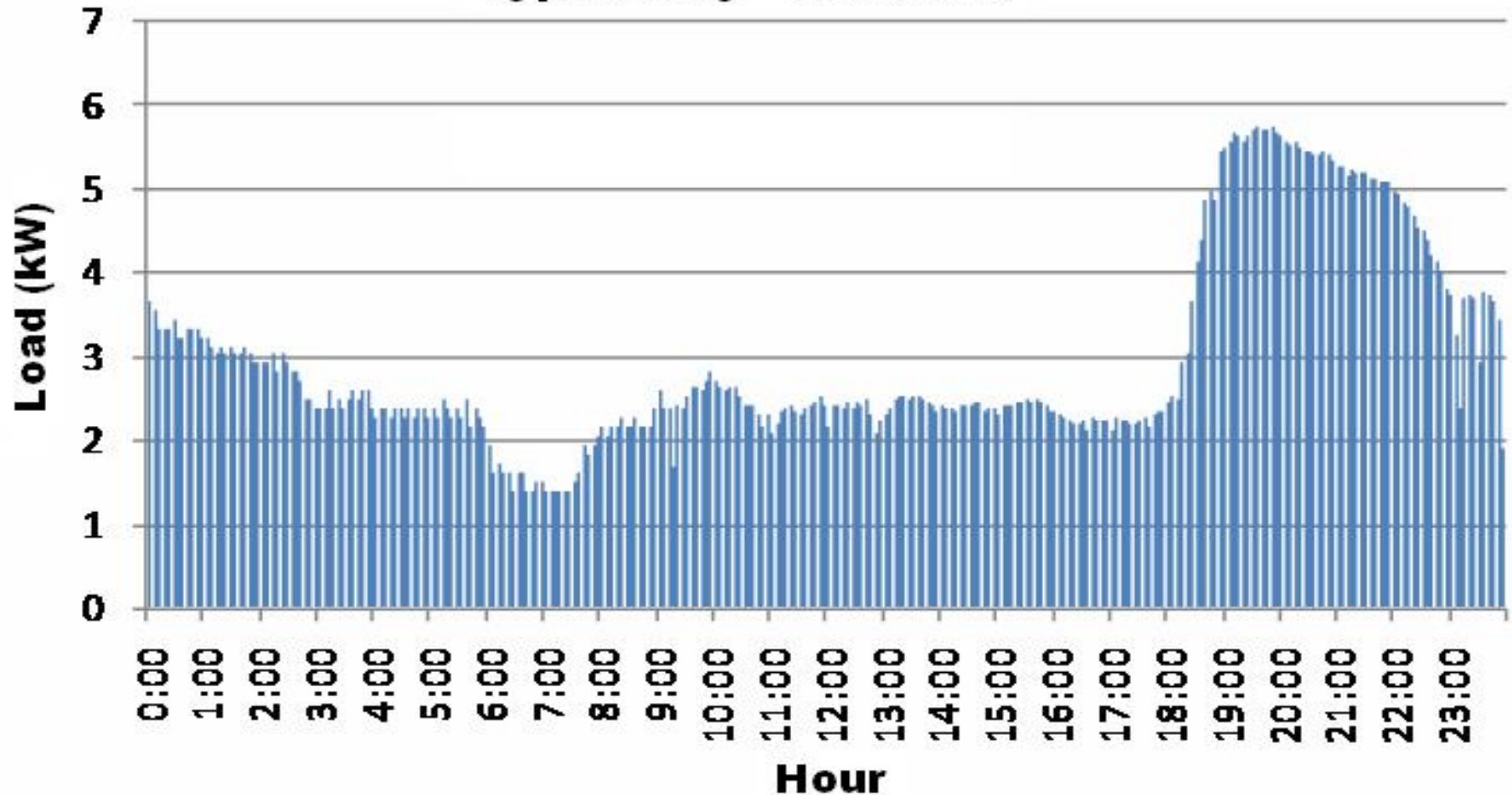
**Approx. 8.5 million km<sup>2</sup>  
Almost 200 million inhabitants**

**Source: Adapted from MME**

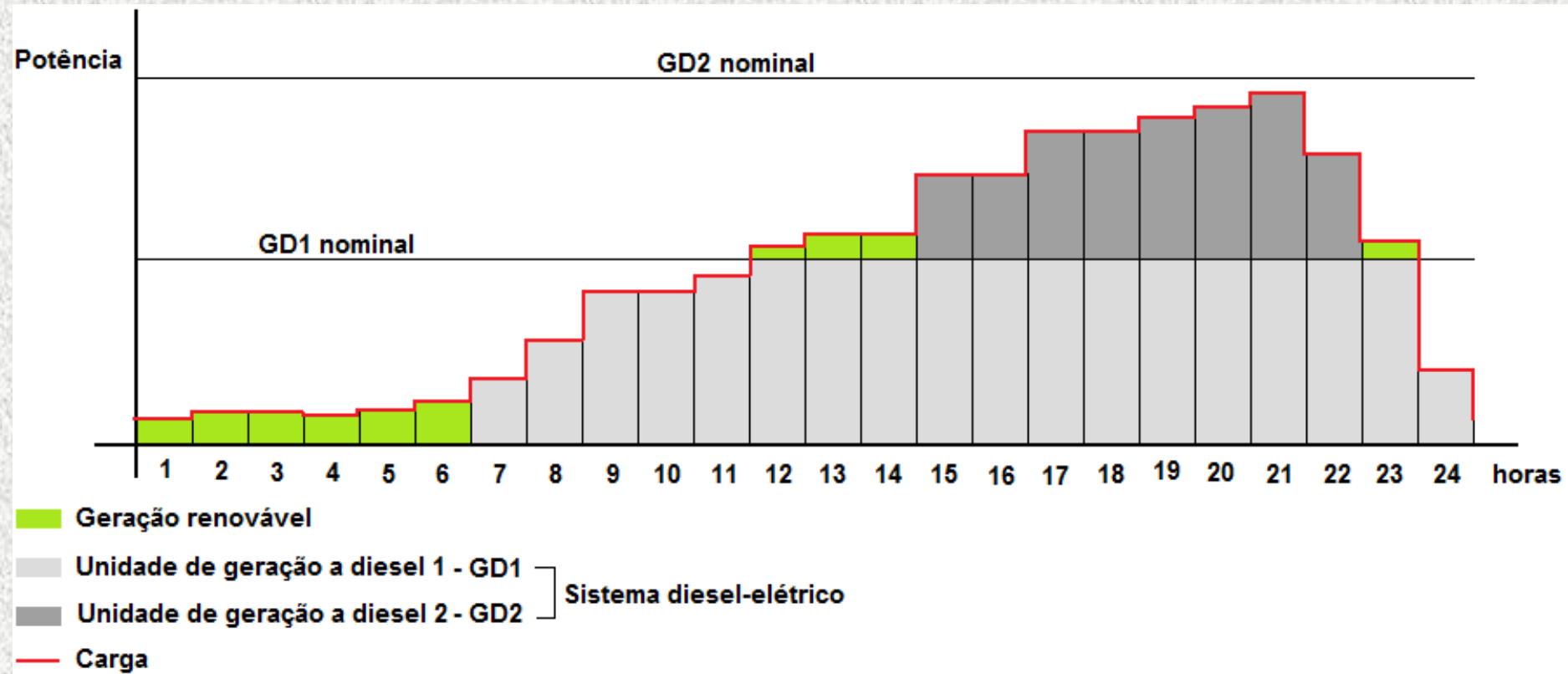


# Typical off-grid load curves

**Typical day - June/2007**

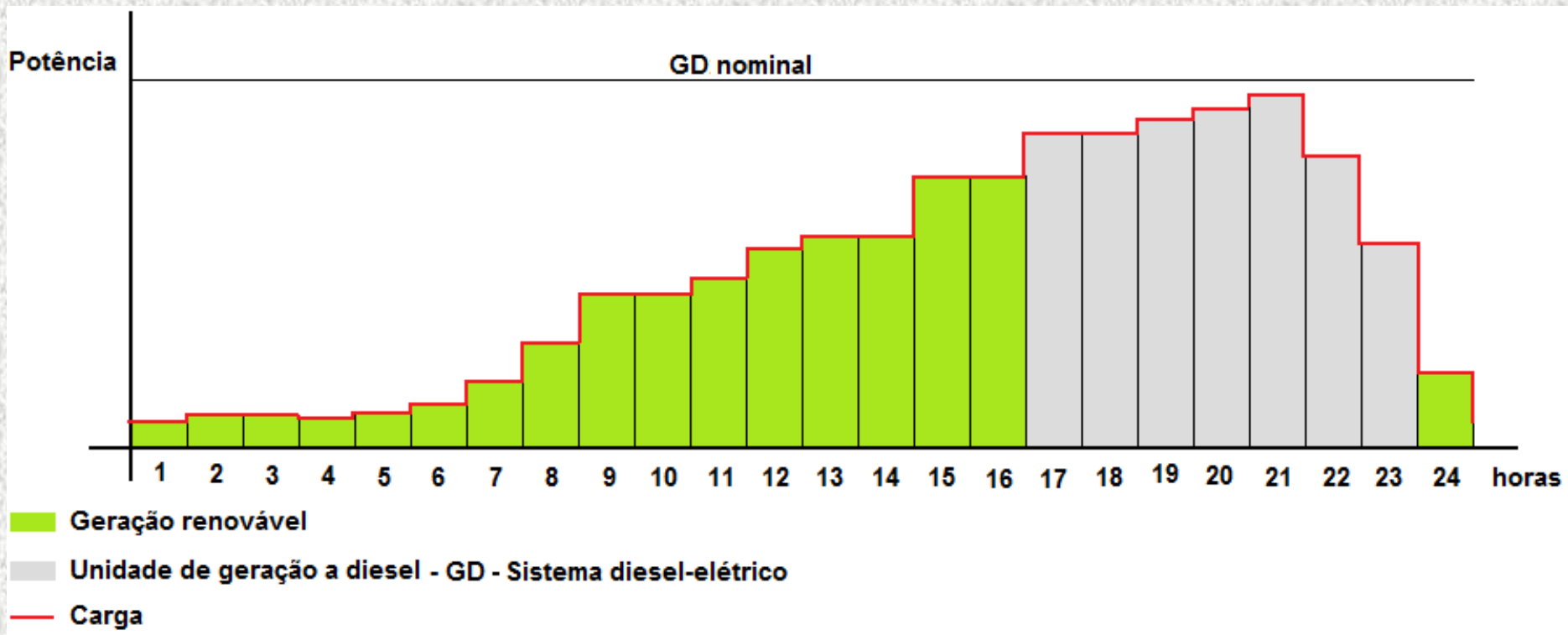


## - Systems based on non-renewable resources



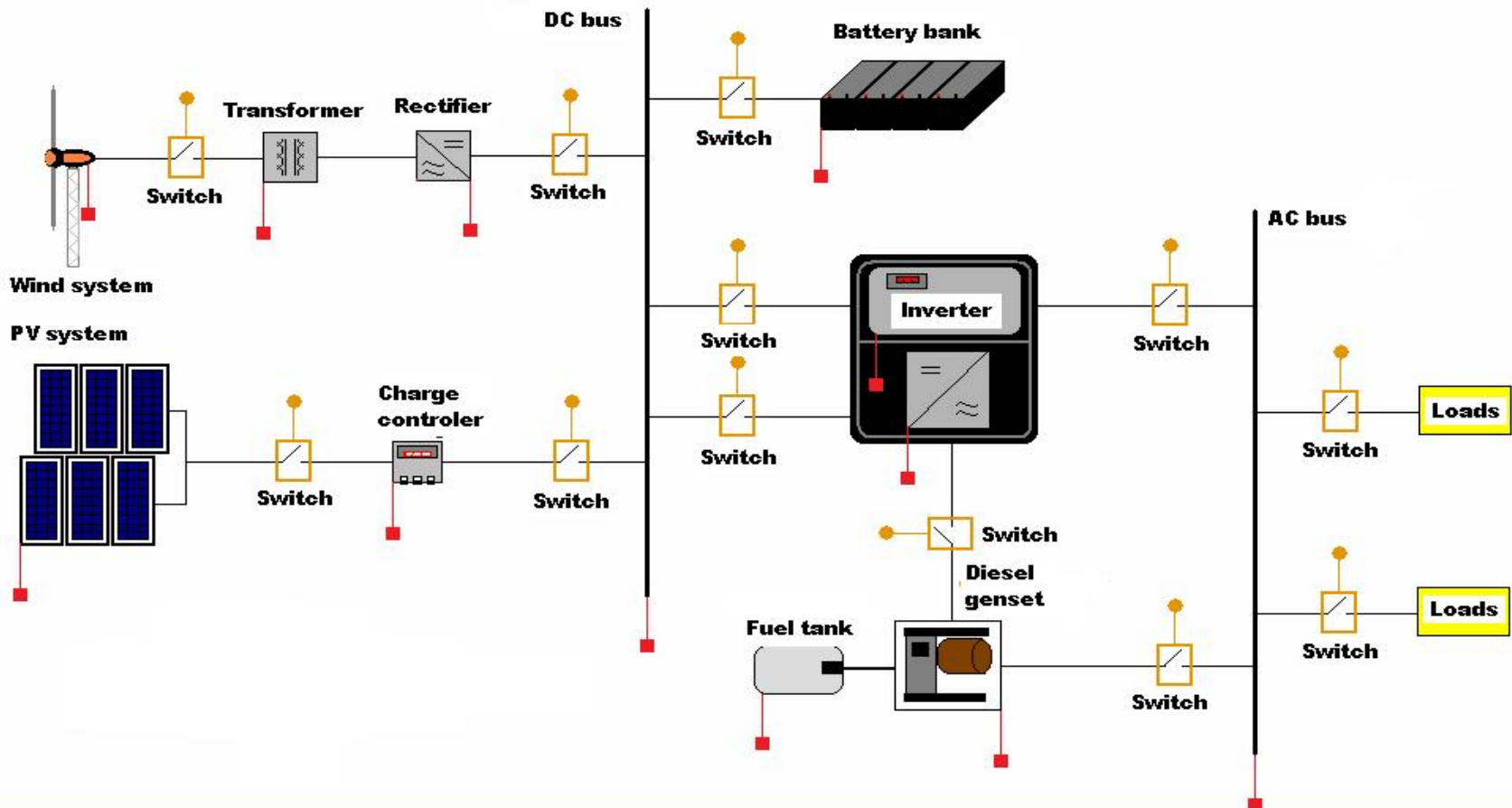
The energy from the renewable sources (and/or storage) is used to supply the load during the periods of low demand or to complement the non-renewable generation

## - Systems based on renewable resources



The non-renewable generation (and/or storage) functions as a back-up system, supplying the load during periods of high demand and low or no renewable generation

# Automatic operation and control



**Local Control Center**  
Visual Interface, Control  
and Data Acquisition

**System**  
**Monitoring**  
**Control**

**Communications protocol**  
(telephon, radio, satellite, etc.)

**Remote Control Center**  
Visual Interface, Control,  
and Data Acquisition



“A SmartGrid is an electricity network that can intelligently integrate the actions of all users connected to it – generators, consumers, and those that do both – in order to efficiently deliver sustainable, economic and secure electricity supplies.” (*EU Report, 27*)

“A **smart grid** is an electrical grid which includes a variety of operational and energy measures including smart meters, smart appliances, renewable energy resources, and energy efficient resources. Electronic power conditioning and control of the production and distribution of electricity are important aspects of the smart grid.” (*United States Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.*

# Smart grids

## THE ELECTRIC GRID: PRESENT AND FUTURE

### PRESENT

■ Electricity, produced by a central power plant, flows one way to customers

*Sub stations convert high voltage to lower voltage*

INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMER

BUSINESS CUSTOMER

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

### FUTURE

■ Electricity, produced by a central power plant, wind turbines and solar panels, flows to customers

■ Industrial customers both consume and produce electricity  
■ Industrial customers communicate usage information back to the power provider  
■ Electricity is stored in utility batteries

■ Residential and business customers both consume and produce electricity using solar panels and wind turbines

■ Electricity is stored in utility batteries

■ Residential and business customers communicate usage information back to the power provider

■ Smart appliances, electric cars and street lights are some of the devices that will communicate to the power provider

■ Electricity is stored in batteries

- ISOLATED: Rural Electrification (limited resources, Storage)
- INTERCONNECTED: “Prosumers” (Distributed Energy Resources – Distributed Generation; Storage; Demand Response; Smart Devices - Inverters, BMS, Meters, etc.)



## NECESSARY FUNCTIONAL CAPACITIES

- Monitoring: Knowledge of the situation in real time; Knowledge of energy quality; Flow analyses of distributed load/generation; Use of GIS
- Control: Microgrid management; Distributed Energy Resources (DER) dispatch; Automatic circuit reconfiguration.
- Forecast: Short-term forecast of the DER; Long-term forecast of energy production; Contingency analyses.
- Optimization: Voltage optimization; Energy flow optimization; Adaptive protection.



The **distribution grid** is expected to become a **platform for the supply and acquisition of products and services** that go beyond the mere electrical energy purchase and/or sale from/to the utilities **(changes the roles of utilities and consumers)**

The possibility not only to **generate electricity** but also to **time-shift its consumption**, for example, plays a major role to address issues such as **feeders overload**, **distribution losses**, **power quality**, and the increase of the admissible level of **non-dispatchable renewable energy** resources such as photovoltaic and wind

# On-grid usage

- ✓ Systems can be operated as **controlled units** to meet local needs of the distribution grid
- ✓ System size may vary, depending on policies, and type of service to be provided
- ✓ Amounts of generation and storage capacity must be appropriately adjusted to each other
- ✓ Ancillary services can be offered even by residential and commercial prosumers: **arbitrage, according to different tariff posts; reactive power compensation; load-shift; loading limits on feeders; self-consumption; phase balancing, etc.**

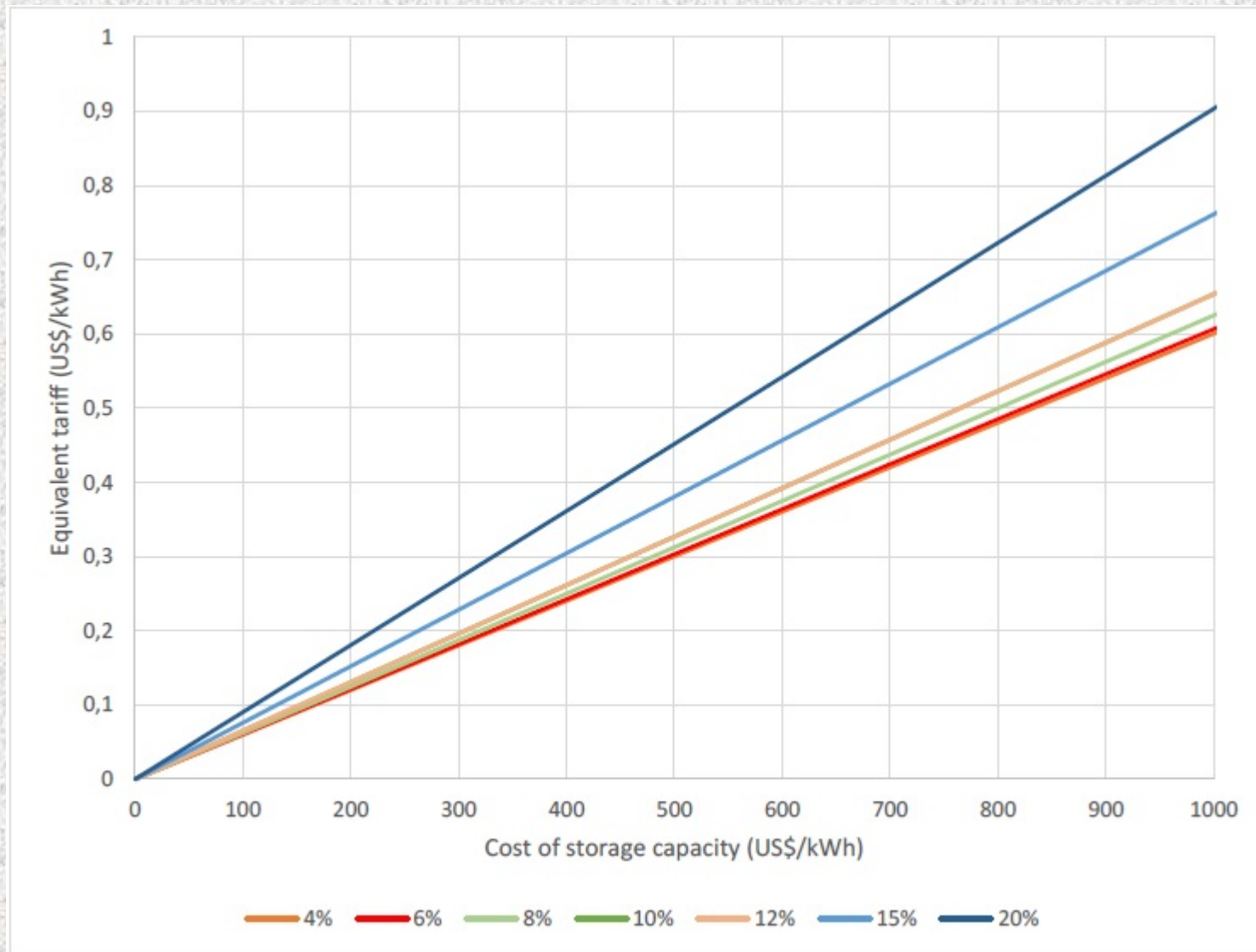


Figure 2 – Equivalent tariff as a function of the battery cost for different interest rates.

## OBJECTIVES

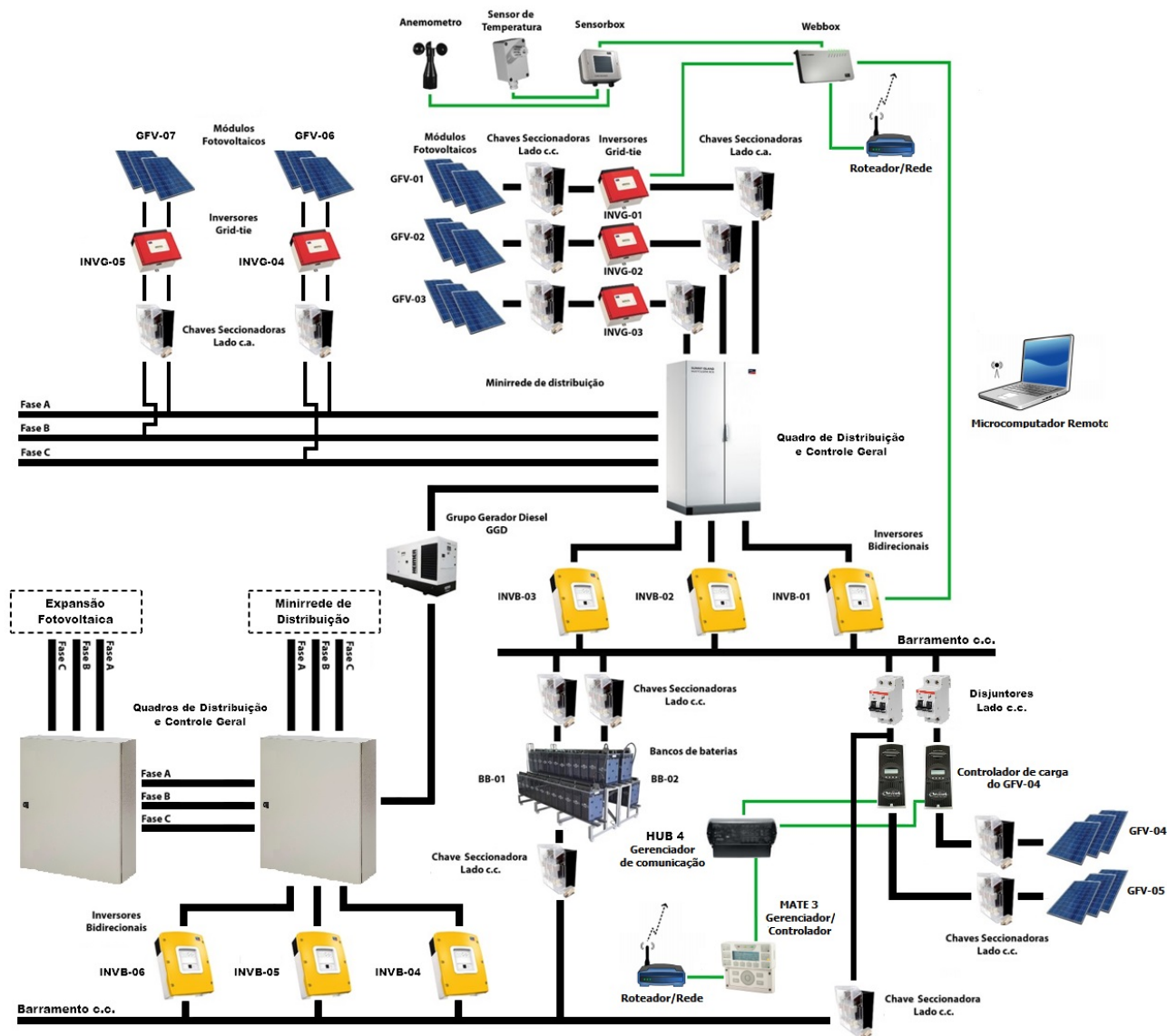
Development of laboratory infrastructures with hybrid systems for electricity generation and smart microgrids

Development of studies and research on these topics

Capacity building at technical, undergraduate and graduate levels



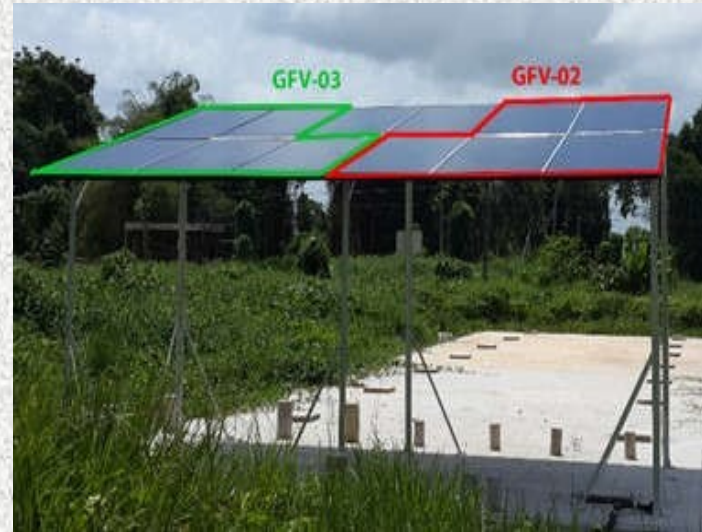
# GEDAE's Microgrid



# GEDAE's Microgrid



**PVG-01 and Sunny SensorBox (1<sup>st</sup> module on the right)**



**PVG-02 and PVG-03**



**DG and  
anemometer  
(roof)**



**INVB, INVG, GDC**



# GEDAE's Microgrid



**GDC (inside view)**



**BB-01 and BB-02**



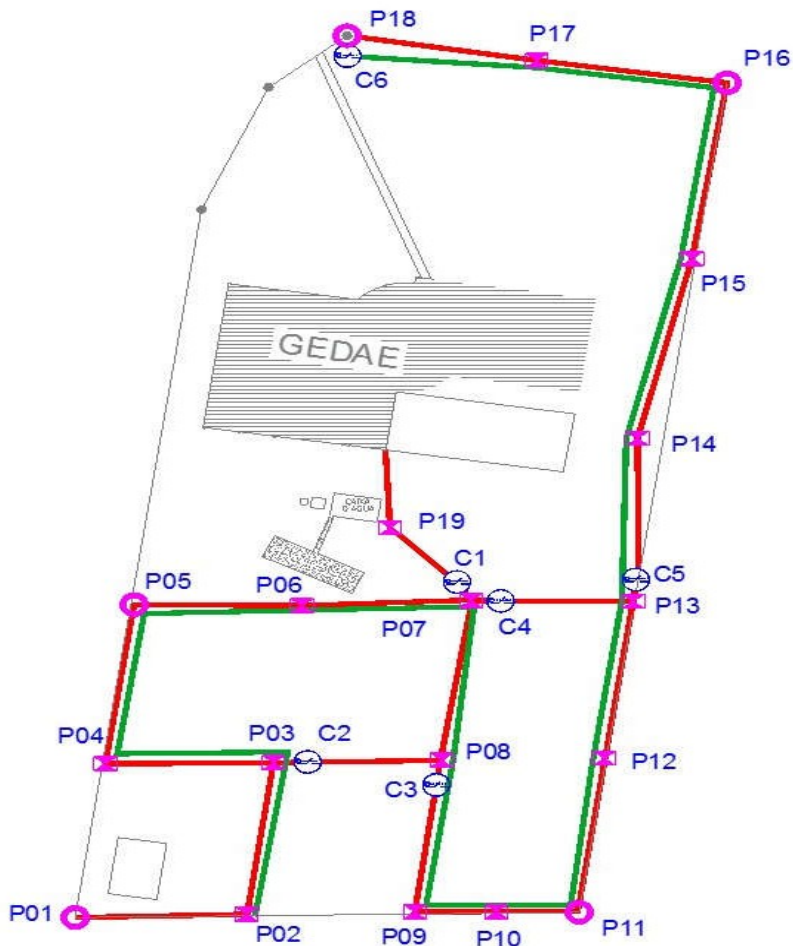
**Sunny WebBox  
and Power  
Injector  
(from bottom to  
top)**



**Air and module temperature sensors**



# GEDAE's Microgrid



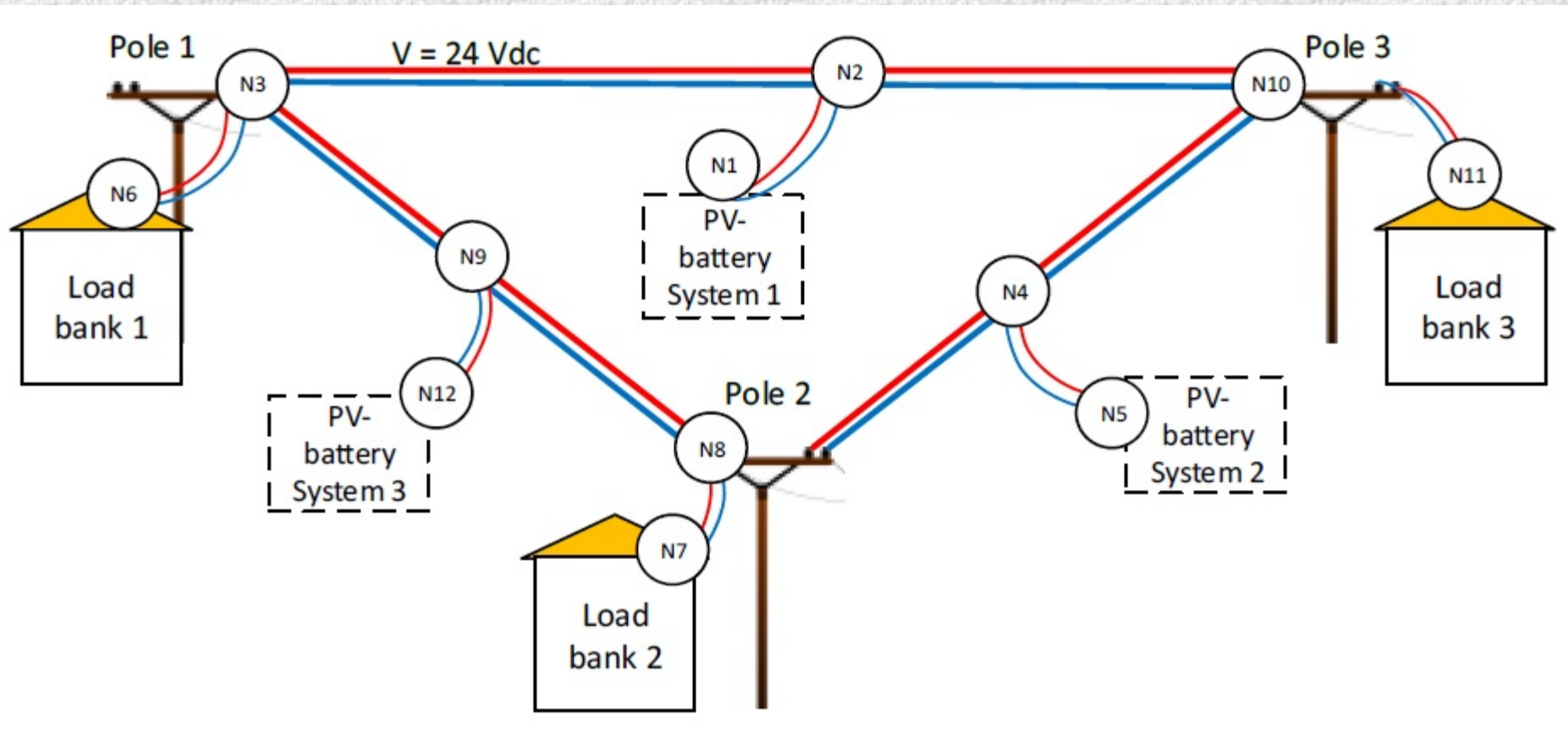
## LEGENDA

- Poste de concreto de seção circular
- ⊠ Poste de concreto de seção quadrada
- Cabo multiplexado - nível baixo (5 m)
- Cabo multiplexado - nível alto (5,60 m)
- ⊗ Chave contatora

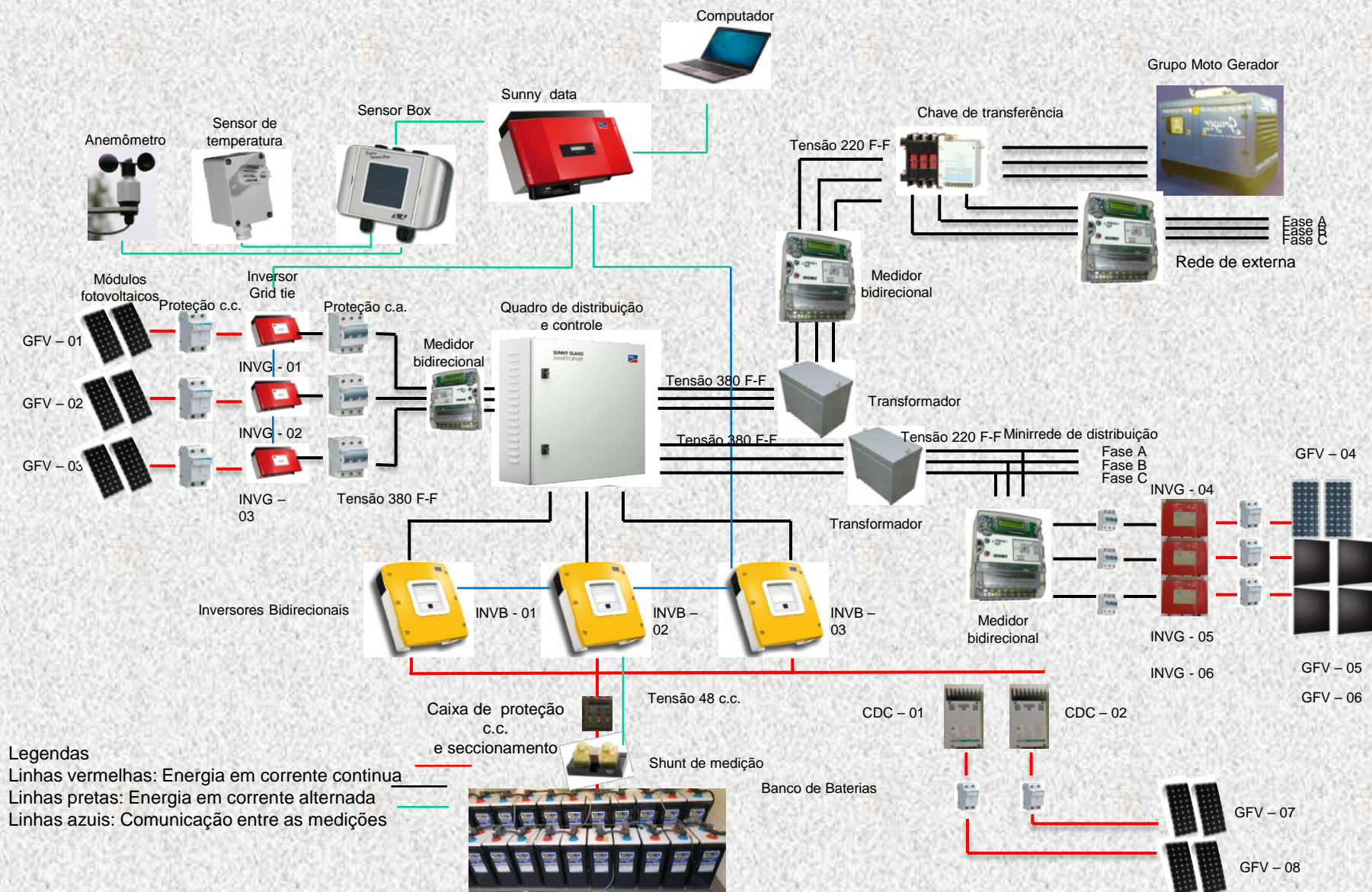




# GEDAE's DC Microgrid

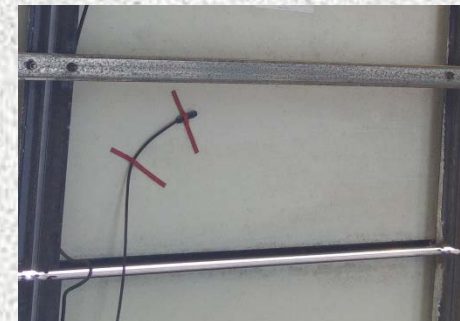


# LSF's Microgrid





# LSF's Microgrid





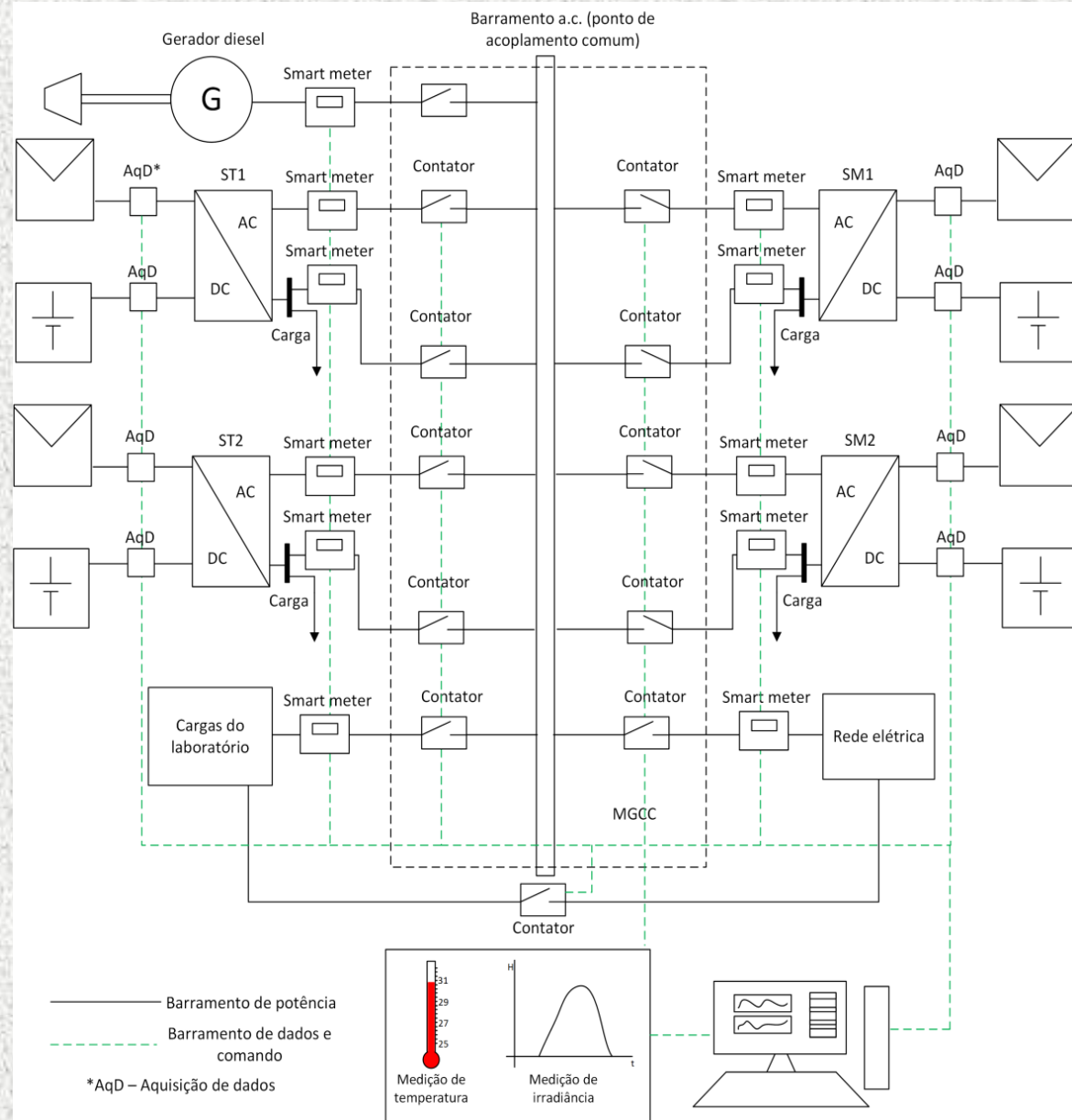
# LSF's Microgrid





## Operational Strategies

- Hybrid systems as main grid;
- Electric grid supplying energy to all systems, or to one system only;
- Diesel generator supplying all systems, only one system and/or the electric grid.



Operational Scenarios	
Sources	Loads
Diesel Generator (DG)	HSs
	MG
	MG + HSs
Hybrid Systems (HSs)	HSs
	MG
	MG + HSs
Main Grid (MG)	HSs

**Homepages:** <http://www.gedae.ufpa.br>

<http://www.abens.org.br>

**E-mail:** [jtpinho@ufpa.br](mailto:jtpinho@ufpa.br)

[contato@abens.org.br](mailto:contato@abens.org.br)

**THANKS  
FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION!**