



# **Strategic Market Study** Solar Photovoltaic Market – Distributed Generation (DG)

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester 2018













**Build Your Dreams** 





































## **Timeline of Next Studies**







## **Sponsor our Next studies**





<u>Julho de 2018</u>





## **Introduction to the Study**

The Distributed Generation Strategy Paper developed by **Greener** aims to evaluate the current status of the market from the perspective of solar integrator companies, as well as to generate insight and ideas for current and future entrepreneurs about the dynamics and development of the solar photovoltaic sector in Brazil.

#### **Focal Points of the Study:**



# **Highlights of the Survey**



Brazilian solar market grows to approximately 4.000 integrators.



DG Market achieves sales estimated at R\$ 2.27 Billion in 2018.

#### Cumulative imports for DG surpass 950 MWp (jan/2012 until jun/2018)

Average sales volume increases by 87,62% for integrator companies.



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Installed volume reaches 410 MWp for year-to-date 2018.



Sales conversion ratio drops to 5.39%.

Photovoltaic kits show an average price rise of 5.11% in the last 6 months.



Integrators feel the margin squeeze and prices for end customer drop 2.98% in last 6 months.





## **New Items**

July 2018



Average integration price per State.

Tracking of domestically produced DG solar modules.

Analysis of the attractiveness and participation of DG in Brasil per State.

Financial analysis, segmented for small and medium sized market participants.

Average installation time, categorized per system size / installed power.





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| Installation Times<br>Regulation and Taxation |

PESQUISA | ESTRATÉGIA | INOVAÇÃO







**Integrator Companies Interviewed** 

**Greener** once again launched its DG solar market survey, interviewing **768** integrator companies in the period between **18** June and **11** July 2018. The survey was sent to a broad range of companies spread all over the country, with different sizes and experience, thereby obtaining a heterogenous sample which reliably represents the photovoltaic integrator market.

Greener would like to thank all the participating companies as well as all other parties involved in its completion and distribution.



#### Company start of activities

- distrbution per year





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Location of Company

Headquarters

#### **Estimated Population of Companies**



The **total number of solar integrators** in Brazil is an estimate based on cross-references between Greener's own survey and information gathered by a number of sector/industry associations. In 2017 the DG solar market saw a sharp increase in the number of companies active in the sector, and this accelerated even more in the first half of 2018.

Our questionnaire achieved a 19.06% penetration rate in the Brazilian solar integrator market and we obtained a validated response rate of 10,89%.



The **Sampling Error** is the error present in any survey due to the representativeness of the sample in reference to the whole population of data. For each question, the variance in the answers due to sampling errors is less than  $\pm 4.51\%$ .

In addition, we calculate the variability of the sampling error, which occurs because the total population of companies is based on an estimate: this resulted in a further intrinsic sampling error of  $\pm 0.11\%$ .



Greener takes great care with the confidence placed in it by partners and participants, and for this reason we are always open to suggestions for improvement regarding more security for participants. Over **87% of companies indicated a Confidence Level of 8 or higher in our surveys** and we constantly strive to increase this confidence level.

**90% of companies evaluated us with grade 8 or higher** with respect to the **Contribution to Company Growth** by partificipating in the survey (+8% compared to the first survey), helping with everything from simple processes like system pricing up to the selection of business tools that can help company performance



(last survey: 8.34)

Greener is extremely careful with the data obtained through the survey. All data is considered confidential and Greener takes responsibility for and guarantees secrecy of the data collected, meaning that **information security of participating companies is guaranteed**.

The data that is collected passes through a rigorous validation process, which means only companies that have concluded at least one sale and are actively involved in the sector will be considered. In the final analysis.

# General Data about the Brazilian Photovoltaic Market







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|                        | 400.000 |          |        |        |        |        |         |         |
|------------------------|---------|----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|
|                        | 350.000 |          |        |        |        |        | _       |         |
|                        | 300.000 |          |        |        |        |        |         |         |
|                        | 250.000 |          |        |        |        |        |         |         |
| 0                      | 200.000 |          |        |        |        |        |         |         |
| ××<br>×                | 150.000 |          |        |        |        |        |         |         |
| _                      | 100.000 |          |        |        |        |        |         |         |
|                        | 50.000  | <u> </u> |        |        |        |        |         |         |
|                        | -       | 2012     | 2013   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017    | 2018*   |
| Domestic Production ** |         | -        | -      | -      | -      | _      | -       | 20.000  |
| ■ Imports              |         | 3.045    | 19.044 | 16.987 | 66.966 | 99.306 | 332.611 | 413.595 |
| Commercialization      |         | 2.659    | 18.114 | 16.651 | 63.996 | 82.938 | 297.617 | 410.590 |
| Connected to Grid      |         | 410      | 1.399  | 2.417  | 9.541  | 48.208 | 120.568 | 133.898 |

Domestic Production \*\* Imports Commercialization

Connected to Grid

Source: Receita Federal, Greener, ANEEL

\*Data collected until end of June 2018. \*\* Volumes estimated based on information collected from domestic manufacturers.

#### **Cumulative DG Market (kWp)**



# ANEEL Data



#### Total Capacity Connected to the Grid (kWp) Cumulative



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**Total Capacity Connected to the Grid until June 2018** 



Numer of Grid-Connected Solar Power Customers until June 2018

### **Number of Connected Systems**

Cumulative



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Source: ANEEL



Commercial systems overtook residential systems im terms of total power and now are the leading market segment,

representing +/- 44% of total grid-connected capacity, followed by residential systems, representing 40%. Source: ANEEL

### **Grid-Connected Solar Capacity (kWp)**

**Per Federal State** 







### **Number of Grid-Connected PV Systems**

**Per Federal State** 





Minas Gerais is the State with the highest number of gridconnected PV systems, with 6,519 connections.

São Paulo is the State with the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest number of gridconnected PV systems, with 6,245 connections.

Rio Grande do Sul is the State with the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest number of grid-connected PV systems, with 3,998 connections.

#### **Local Municipalities with Grid-Connected PV Systems**





Source: ANEEL

#### **Modality of DG Generation**





The data clearly shows that the Shared Generation model and customers with multiple consumption locations are still rarely connected to the grid, not only because of the higher complexity involved to develop them, but also because of regulatory, fiscal and legal uncertaintiess.

- Multiple Consumers / Cooperative
- Generation on Own Premises
- Shared Generation
- Remote Auto-consumption



# Companies





### **Purchase Model of PV kit**



Only a small number of market participants achieved a sufficient sales volume to make it worthwhile to 'skip' the distribution chain and create a structure for direct purchases from the manufacturers/OEMs. It should be noted that this number is also influenced by certain groups of smaller companies that have joined forces to scale up their purchasing power and reduce their acquisition / operational costs.

- 100% direct purchase in domestic market
- 100% direct import of whole photovoltaic kit
- more than 50% domestically purchased, rest imported
- less than 50% domestically purchased, rest imported

### **Location of DG Solar Companies**





There was a small decrease in the dominance of companies from the SouthEast region, which now represents a little less than 50% of all companies. The decrease was caused by a large increase in Rio Grande do Sul and was also diluted by increases in other states.

# Location of DG solar companies per Federal State



São Paulo and Minas Gerais have the highest number of DG solar companies in Brazil. 46.24% of the interviewed companies are active in at least one of those two states.
# Number of Companies active in each Federal State



The data show the number of companies that are active in each State of Brasil, but not necessarily having a (head) office there, thereby giving an indication of the level of competition that is faced in each state by solar integrator companies.

# Percentage of Employees working in Engineering in each Company





-6

# **Persons tasked with the Installation of PV systems**

30,00%



**62.87%** of participating companies have at least 3 people working on the installation of PV systems

On average, **3.4 employees per company** have as their principal task the installation of PV systems.

Only 34 of the 439 interviewed companies don't have any people acting in installations.

# Number of Persons involved with Solar Energy per Company





# **Other Areas of Operation for Solar Integrators**



# The Market

350



#### Impression of the DG Solar Market Up to July 2018





Around 36% of solar integrators are dissatisfied with the market. Despite this, these numbers show a light improvement in the general sentiment compared to December 2017, when almost 40% of companies were dissatisfied, and a significant improvement versus May 2017, when more than 50% of all companies involved in the sector expressed discontent.

### **Biggest Challenge in Relation to Competition**





Given the high number of companies and especially new market entrants, a logical consequence is that very low prices are offered (sometimes below cost) to be able to execute early projects. The unsustainable nature of such low pricing strategies must be emphasized, as it devalues the whole market and turns it unattractive.

# **Biggest Difficulties in Obtaining Financing**





### **Company Participation in Sector Associations**



The low participation in industry associations by solar integrators shows that the market is still immature in Brazil, and that the cost of membership does not yet make sense within the financial **constraints** of the majority of these start-up companies in the sector. Additionally, the relative number of companies that were part of an Association declined slightly vs December 2017, when around 76% were unaffiliated to any Association.

# **Business model of the integrators**

#### Ways in which integrators complete projects



- Sytem rental / shared solar generation facilities
- Only (After-Sale) Services

- Supply of the PV Kit from distributor with follow-up services (design, installation, grid connection, maintenance)
  - One-off sale (PV Kit, project design, installation, grid connection) - without maintenance





# **Time Interval for Grid Connection**

Time between access request and grid connection

#### Microgeneration (≤ 75kWp)

**49 Days\*** 

Minigeneration (>75kW to  $\leq$  5MW)

63 Days\*



Minigeneration DG systems on average take more time than micro-Systems to be connected to the grid by the distributors. Compared to December 2017, there has been little variation in the connection interval, which were **50** and **64** days for micro and minigeneration respectively, meaning **just one day less than 6 months ago** in both cases.

\*Average time interval between request for access and the actual grid connection for a DG solar PV system.

# System Rental

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#### **System Rental / Shared Systems**



Observation: The data from this section are not based on the total validated sample of companies in the survey, but are only based on the answers given by those companies that use a shared / remote generation business model where solar capacity is shared or rented or generted remotely using Minigeration (Consortiums, Cooperatives, Remote Auto-consumption). As a result, the sampling error discussed earlier can not be applied to any of these questions. It would be advisable to consider these answers as qualitative due to limited sample size and small number of companies using these business models.

These data are not representative for the market as a whole!

#### % of Discount Offered vs Low-Voltage Grid Price

(Companies that don't work with this model are assumed to provide 0% discount)



The amount of discount achieved for the final customer by solar integrators using this model still varies wildly, with **an average of around 18%.** The lower discounts could be contradictory in certain distribution regions because of the **ICMS tax charged over TUSD transmission charges.** This reduces the part of the bill that can generate cost savings.

### % of Discount Offered vs Mid-Voltage Grid Price

(Companies that don't work with this model are assumed to provide 0% discount)



For Mid-Tension projects, the highest discount achieved for the end customer was 20% and the average discount achieved was 9.4%.
However, the very small sample size should be taken into account, as it drastically increases the statistical uncertainty around this measure.

#### **Average Duration of Rental/Leasing Contracts Agreed by Companies**



The average rental duration agreed by companies that use this business model is still relatively long. Uncertainties regarding 'vacant capacity' and in relation to bureaucracy from energy regulators and distributors for changing the members of a consortium/ cooperative stand in the way of shorter leases and greater flexibility in this type of negotiation. The average contract time is 8.1 years.

#### **Difficulty Getting Remote Generation Projects Approved by Distributors**

(Remote auto-consumption, Consortiums, Cooperatives)



Due to the legal/regulatory difficulties (lack of clarity in the legislation), a significant majority of the companies that use this business model face difficulties to get their projects approved for grid connection by the energy distributors.

#### **Principal Source of Financial Backing for Constructing Solar Power Plants**





Solar rental projects should be considered of medium complexity (in the case of plants > 1 MW), which complicates financing by commercial banks who do not yet understand this business. To obtain access to capital, these projects have to overcome the pereived higher risk (because few companies have so far succeeded in completing projects of this kind) and the lower level of operational clarity when running this type of shared/long-term business. The majority of commercial banks are reluctant to take on such uncertainty and higher level of risk. In comparison to December 2017 there has been a significant increase in the proportion of companies with access to investors for such projects (from 40% to 72%)

# Products and Services



#### **Distribution of Solar/PV Equipment** 4 % of Integrators that buy Equipment from each Distributor (This number does not represent market share, but more an index of market reach) 60,00% 10 Sices 53,53% 20 Aldo 50,00% 30 Renovigi 43,05% 39,41% 40,00% 40 PHB 50 **Portal Solar** 26,88% 30.00% 25,74% 60 WEG 20,00% 70 **Ecori** 15,95% **14,58%** 10,93% 80 Minha Casa Solar 10.00% 6,83% 4,78% 90 **Ribeiro Solar** 0,00% Others Others Sices Aldo Renovigi PHB Portal Weg Ecori Minha Ribeiro Solar Casa Solar Solar

EŚ



#### **Distribution of Photovoltaic Equipment** Principal competitive differentials of Preferred Distributor

70,00%



The principal competitive differentials that make an Integrator choose a Distributor are price and service. However, a large number of Integrators also consider product quality and technical support to be important factors. Agility/flexibility and delivery times are also relatively important, but considerably less so than the aforementioned factors.

2,96%

None

#### **Marketplace/E-Commerce Sites**

60,00%





Among Market-Place/E-Commerce sites, the "Portal Solar" is the company that is best known. Given that it is a Solar Marketplace, it infers that this site is considered a preferred option amongst the solar integrator community.

0,46%

**Energy Shop** 

### **Photovoltaic Modules**

#### % of Companies that use each Brand of Solar Module

(This number does not represent market share, but more an index of market reach)



# **Photovoltaic Modules**

#### **Brand that is considered Preferred Supplier**







# **Photovoltaic Modules**

#### **Principal competitive differential of Preferred Brand**





In the market for solar panels, two factors (quality and reliability) are the main differentials for solar integrators in their brand choice, followed by price and (financial) solidity of the manufacturer. These factors are clear differentiators for Integrators.



#### **Photovoltaic Inverters**

#### % of Companies that use each brand of Solar Inverter

(This number does not represent market share, but more an index of market reach)



### **Photovoltaic Inverters**

#### **Brand that each Company considers Preferred Supplier**



### **Photovoltaic Inverters**

#### **Principal competitive differential of Preferred Brand**



2,73%

Other



The principal factors for successful participation In the solar inverter market are reliability, techical support and (financial) solidity of the manufacturer. Making an effort to create a close relationship with customers is fundamental for the acceptance of a brand – for example through cooperation with distributors.

11,39%

Flexibility

17,08%

Service



0,68%

None

### **Mounting Systems**

#### % of Companies that use each brand of Mounting System

(This number does not represent market share, but more an index of market reach)



#### **Mounting Systems Brand that each Company considers Preferred Supplier**

Akcome

6,15%

Other

25,97%

**Solar Group** 

6,61%

PHB

14,58%

Thesan

7,06%

Romagnole

12,07%

Sices

13,90%

K2

13,67%



**Others** 

20,96%

**Balfar** 

1,59%

2,05%

**Politec** 

1,37%

#### **Mounting Systems** Principal differential of Preferred Brand

70,00%



62,64% For mounting systems, ease of mounting is the most 60,00% important buying decision factor by far. Price is apparently not a factor when an installer decides 50,00% which system to use. It is clear that a mounting system which facilitates and speeds up the 38,27% 40,00% installation is considered essential by solar integrators. 30,00% 26,65% 23,01% 21,64% 20,73% 20,00% 7,74% 10,00% 4,56% 0,23% 0,00% Availability at Ease of Mounting Ease of Grounding Variety Customer Support Time Efficiency Accessible Price Other None Distributor

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# **Mounting Systems**

% of Companies that already used different types of mounting systems





#### **Digital Tools** Where Digital Tools are used in each Company



80,00%



# Commercial and Sales


#### **Principal Source of Commercial Opportunities (Leads)**



**Customer Referral** 10 **2**° **Sales Representatives Google Ads** 30 Facebook Ads 40 50 Partnerships 60 Portal Solar Ads 70 80 90 Others

Principal Sales Channel (How the Company achieves the majority of its sales)





Sales through the company's own sales force and independent sales reps account for the majority of sales for **more than 75% of Solar Integrators**. Partnerships and e-commerce, despite being in the minority, still are the top sales channel for about 20% of participating sales companies.

| <b>1</b> º | Own Sales Force |
|------------|-----------------|
| <b>2</b> º | Representatives |
| <b>3</b> 0 | Partnerships    |
| <b>4</b> 0 | e-Commerce      |
|            | Others          |

**Biggest difficulty encountered during sales process** 





From the responses it is clear that the sales forces of many companies are still encountering many "immature" clients who are not ready to make a decision on solar. This demonstrates that a large proportion of integrators don't have access to or make use of the most appropriate sales channels.

- Customers think solutions are very expensive
- "Just Curious"
- High Level of Competition
- Few Interested Customers
- Few Proposals Requested
- Difficulty to determine potential client profile
- None

**Principal motive for clients switching to solar** 







Average Time to Return a Commercial First Contact (Only contact, doesn't consider the preparation of a commercial proposal)



Average Time to prepare and send a Commercial Proposal





EG

Average Time to complete a sale after initial contact (Average Commercial Cycle)

30,00%





Gross Sales of each Company in 2018\* 80,00%





#### Average number of commercial proposals prepared per month



30,00%



Average number of commercial contracts closed per month



#### **Sales** Principal form of payment







**Banks/Credit Lines used most frequently to finance projects** 





\*Though being unrelated to the survey and not explicitly mentioned, Banco Votorantim is an important source of solar project financing, and here it is included in the 'Others' category.

Typical project size sold by each company



Total solar capacity sold by each company in 2018\*

#### 60,00%





\*Data refer to period up to June 2018.

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Total solar capacity sold since company started commercial activities

70,00%



Largest solar project sold by each company

30,00%





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## Prices for the final customer

R\$/Wp

## **Prices for the final customer**

#### From June 2016 to June 2018







## **Prices of Photovoltaic kits**

#### From June 2016 to June 2018



Due to the volatitile currency markets and sharp rise of the US Dollar, PV kits have been getting more expensive. Larget kits, which usually operate with lower stock levels and specialised equipment, usually imported, have shown sharper price rises.

## **Prices of PV Kits**

**Comparison between rooftop and ground-based systems** 



Ground-based PV kits are on average 10.46% more expensive than PV systems intended for rooftop installation.

## **Prices for Integrator Services**

#### From June 2016 to June 2018



A further squeezing of integrator margins can be observed in the latest data, not just because of the increasing scale of business but also because of heavy competition and the absorption of some of the price increases in solar equipment.

## **Price Evolution of Photovoltaic Systems**

#### From June 2016 to June 2018





#### **Residential systems (4 kWp)**



## **Price Evolution of Photovoltaic Systems**

#### From June 2016 to June 2018



**Commercial System (50 kWp)** 

Average Price per State in June 2018 (R\$/Wp)

## **Price Evolution of Photovoltaic Systems**

From June 2017 to June 2018

#### Industrial Scale System (1 MWp)



## **Prices of Photovoltaic Systems**



Observing the price development data for residential and commercial sytems, we note that prices are tending towards stabilization, with a smaller reduction in prices compared to previous periods/surveys.



The prices of kits showed a small increase in the past year, though less than the increase in prices of equipment. Integrators are absorbing part of the price increases by reducing their profit margins, meaning that they are suffering from the heavy competition but also showing signs of maturity and financial stability.

For larger/industrial sytems the prices for customers are still coming down steadily, but in this segment too the integrators are having to absorb some of the price increases of kits into their profit margins and operating models.

# Installation Time





## **Average Intallation Time**

... 

# Regulation and Taxation



## **Technical/Regulatory Problems**

**During Connection to the Grid of a Mini-generation PV Plant** 







## Never Installed a Mini-Generation PV System

Yes

## **Complaints about ICMS tax over TUSD**

Have Customers complained about the charging of ICMS tax over TUSD?





## Difficulties with Connecting Remote Generation, Consortium/Cooperative or Condominium

**Compared to Auto-Gernation PV Systems** 





## Change to Regulation of Distributed Generation

Does your Company believe it is necessary?





## Possible changes with biggest POSITIVE impact



Expansion of CONFAZ arrangements for tax exemption in line with REN nº 687/2015

- **Exemption of ICMS taxes over TUSD charges**
- None
- Other
- Reducing bureaucracy involved in process of connecting to Grid
- Reduction of fixed connection charges levied on Low Tension connections

# Possible changes with biggest NEGATIVE impact



- None
- Other
- Ban on ability to rent solar plant capacity
- Removal of ICMS exemption over energy credits
- Removing TUSD charges from compensated credits instead of fixed connection charge
- Removing the different models of PV generation (such as remote generation)
- Binomial Tariff for Low Tension Consumers (Energy Price + Demand Charge)
- White Tariff (Merging Peak and Off-Peak Prices for Low Tension Customers)

## **CP 010/2018 ANEEL**

Did you read it?






# Strategic Analysis of the Solar Integrator Market



### **Average Sales Volume per Company**



|                                                     | 2014                              | 2015                              | 2016                              | 2017                               | 2018*                                          |                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PV Capacity<br>Sold                                 | 16,651<br>MWp/year                | 63,996<br>MWp/year                | 82,938<br>MWp/year                | 297,617<br>MWp/year                | 410,59<br>MWp                                  | Average Sales Volume<br>Per Company                                                                                                                                 |
| Number of<br>Active<br>Companies                    | 388<br>companies                  | 906<br>companies                  | 1500<br>companies                 | 2741<br>companies                  | 4029<br>companies                              | Considering there have been                                                                                                                                         |
| Average Sales<br>Volume per<br>Company              | <b>42.91</b> kWp/<br>year/company | <b>70.64</b> kWp/<br>year/company | 55.29 kWp/<br>year/company        | <b>108.58</b> kWp/<br>year/company | <b>101.91</b> kWp<br>/company<br>(in 6 months) | only 6 months of sales so far<br>this year, the total PV<br>capacity sold per<br>company/month is higher<br>than for the full year of 2017<br>or any previous year. |
| Average Sales<br>Volume per<br>Company per<br>Month | <b>3.58</b> kWp/<br>month/company | 5.89 kWp/<br>month/company        | <b>4.61</b> kWp/<br>month/company | 9.05 kWp/<br>month/company         | 16.98 kWp/<br>month/company                    |                                                                                                                                                                     |

\* Total sales volume between January 2018 and June 2018



#### **Estimated Cumulative Installations/State (kWp)** 707 8.186 1.059 12.154 50.499 18.955 15.276 18.848 21.777 1.047 Market Estimate (in kWp) per Brazilian 3 944 4.279 2.297 25.263 6.270 18.436 State based on data of number and type 17.163 of systems connected to the Grid and 29.354 199.008 Sales Volumes as of June 2018. 15 443 13.686

111,935

49,440

53 53

129.066

43.929

707

199.008

Source: Greener

### **Production of Photovoltaic Energy per State** (kWh)





Production of Solar Photovoltaic Energy per State, based on the Capacity of the installed base and radiation data for the month of April 2018.

Source: Receita Federal, Greener, ANEEL (April, 2018)



Source: ANEEL (April, 2018)

#### Share Generated by Photovoltaics (%) Photovoltaic Energy Produced vs. Electricity Consumed – Greener Data





Estimate of the percentage of energy consumption generated by photovoltaic sources per Brazilian State, based on April 2018 radiation and consumption data. Minas Gerais shows the highest share of Distributed Generation solar in its state grid. Even so, the percentage is low – less than 1%. Despite rapid growth, the market share of (Distributed Generation) PV energy in the Brazilian grid is still very low.

Source: Receita Federal, Greener, ANEEL (April, 2018)



\*The average system price for residential systems was R\$5,83/Wp (Average Data according to Greener DG survey for 2nd half of 2018) \*\* The calculated figures take into account local productivity/irradiation data, average system cost, and local distributors' energy prices.



\*The average installation price for commercial systems was R\$4.64/Wp (Average Data according to Greener DG survey for 2nd half of 2018) \*\* The calculated figures take into account local productivity/irradiation data, average system cost, and local distributors' energy prices.

## **Estimate of Average Payback Time per State Industrial Tariff - Medium Tension**



\* The average installation price for industrial systems was R\$4.02/Wp (Average Data according to Greener DG survey for 2nd half of 2018)

\*\* The calculated figures take into account local productivity/irradiation data, average system cost, and local distributors' energy prices.

### Analysis of a Typical Integrator (Based on Survey Data)

#### Assumptions

The objective of this analysis is to understand the profile of and the conditions for solar integrators in Brazil. In this part of the study, the companies were grouped according to the type of system they most sell. Two groups were created: Companies that sold mostly small systems (up to 12 kWp) and companies that mostly sold medium-sized systems (13 – 200 kWp). Some assumptions were made to define the size of each type of company, the tax treatment they receive and their fixed costs, thereby creating a reference company for each market segment.

| <b>Company Focus</b>          | Activity                                                  | Fiscal Regime      | Average System Size<br>Sold in 2018 | Number of<br>Employees active<br>in Solar Energy |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Small Size<br>(Up to 12 kWp)  | Company's activities are<br>100% in solar energy market   | 'Simples' Taxation | 4.9 kWp                             | 6 employees                                      |
| Medium Size<br>(13 - 200 kWp) | model (selling PV kits +<br>offering integrator services) | Presumed Profit    | 40.4 kWp                            | 11 employees                                     |





#### Monthly Sales Estimate (R\$/month)/ Gross Sales for 2018

| Information<br>(For companies focused on small-sized systems)                                       | Data             |                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Average Number of Sales                                                                             | 2 sales          |                                 |
| Average System Size in 2018                                                                         | 4.9 kWp          | Average Solar<br>Capacity Sold: |
| Average Price (Integration + Kit) 2018*                                                             | 5,460 R\$/Wp     | 9.8<br>kWn/month                |
| Gross Monthly Sales per Integrator (kit + integration) 2018                                         | R\$ 53,508/month | kwp/month                       |
| Gross Sales for DG Solar Integrator in 2018 – Small Size**<br>For January 2018 to June 2018 period. | R\$ 321.048,00   |                                 |

\*Average Price for systems of 4.9 kWp, which is the average size for each system sold by integrators that focus on small PV systems (0-12 kWp).

\*\*Average sales based on Gross Monthly Integrator Sales for the 6 months between January 2018 and June 2018.



#### Monthly Costs for Integrator

| Information<br>(integrators with a focus on small scale PV systems) | <b>Data</b><br>(Entire Team) |                    |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Rent                                                                | R\$ 2.500,00                 | Important          |  |
| Accounting                                                          | R\$ 500,00                   |                    |  |
| Energy                                                              | R\$ 200,00                   | based on a small   |  |
| Water                                                               | R\$ 50,00                    | company focused    |  |
| Internet/Telephone                                                  | R\$ 500,00                   | (6 employees) with |  |
| Marketing                                                           | R\$ 2.000,00                 | optimized cost     |  |
| After Sales Support                                                 | R\$ 1.000,00                 | structure.         |  |
| Supplies / Tools                                                    | R\$ 3.000,00                 |                    |  |
| Team (6 persons) [1 Adm./Com. +1 manager +1 Engineer +3 Installers] | R\$ 22.500,00                |                    |  |
| Total                                                               | R\$ 32.250,00                |                    |  |



#### Costs of Integration Services for a 4.9 kWp system (average system size sold)

| nt                                                                                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                 |
| volume                                                                                                          |
| pany is<br>valent to                                                                                            |
| average                                                                                                         |
| initiation in the second se |
| e.                                                                                                              |
| v<br>pa<br>va<br>m<br>oxi<br>ju<br>e.                                                                           |

\*COGS=Cost of Goods Sold (Includes all the costs involved for installing and connecting a small PV system, including cost of PV kit).

\*\*Contribution Margin estimated for this example, it may vary depending on company policy (based on average price).

#### Profit and Loss of Small Solar Integrator

#### Information

| Information                                      | Data               |                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (For Integrators focused on small scale systems) |                    | Important                                                                             |
|                                                  |                    |                                                                                       |
| Gross Sales per Integrator - 2018                | R\$ 53.508,00/mês  | We considered that the company would sell approx 9.8 kWp/month (2 systems             |
| Taxes                                            | R\$ -5.083,26/mês  | of 4.9 kWp per month). With this sales volume a negative net monthly profit is        |
| Average Monthly COGS*                            | R\$ -37.958,04/mês | likely, and it is probable that the company<br>will not even be able to pay the fixed |
| Gross Monthly Profit                             | R\$ 10.466,70      | fixed cost base is very high for this level                                           |
| Average Monthly Costs **                         | R\$ -32.250,00     | solar integrator company focused on<br>small systems is still a moneylosing           |
| Average Net Monthly Profit                       | R\$ -21.783,30     | proposition in today's solar market.                                                  |
|                                                  |                    |                                                                                       |

\* Approximately the COGS equivalent of two average systems of 4,9 kWp per month.

\*\*Taking into account average monthly cost equivalent to costs for administration, engineering, installers and other fixed costs. It should be noted that for this sales volume, gross income is not expected to cover fixed costs, resulting in a net monthly loss.



#### Profit and Loss – Small Sized Integrator Market

| Information                                      | Data                |  |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| (For Integrators focused on small scale systems) |                     |  |
| Average Monthly Net Profit / Company             | R\$ -21.783,30      |  |
| Average Annual Net Profit / Company              | R\$ -261.399,00     |  |
| Number of Integrators                            | 3280                |  |
| Estimated Total Annual Net Loss - Integrators    | R\$ -857.390.692,72 |  |
| Estimated Semi-Annual Net Loss – Integrators     | R\$ -428.695.346,36 |  |

#### Important

The information on this table was calculated based on responses to the Greener survey. Naturally certain assumptions had to be made regarding the fixed cost base, which in practice might be much lower – for example, sharing office space with other segments or areas of the company, engineering costs that are diluted over a larger number of projects per month, separate billing for PV kits and services which may reduce VAT or other taxes.

The analysis of a 'model company' shows that as a whole, this market segment has not yet achieved its breakeven point, meaning that companies active in this segment generally need to increase the number of projects sold and/or find ways to reduce their fixed cost base.

#### Scenario for Integrators to achieve Breakeven

| Information<br>(For Integrators focused on small scale systems) | Data                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Integrator's Monthly Cost                                       | R\$ 32.250,00         |
| Variable Cost per product*                                      | R\$ 21.520,65/product |
| Minimum Monthly Sales Requirement                               | R\$ 164.868,87        |
| Average Sales Price per Wp (average system, based on 4.9 kWp)   | R\$ 5,46/Wp           |
| Monthly PV Capacity to be sold                                  | 30.2 kWp              |
| Minimum number of Sales required for breakeven                  | 7 sales               |



#### Important

In this calculation, some values were estimated in order to obtain a reference value for the Breakeven point. Conditions for installing, team/HR expenses, the size of the systems that are sold may vary considerably and the number of sales required to achieve breakeven will therefore also be a variable.

The calculation serves as a good indicator for a monthly sales target for a company that is active in this particular market segment.

\*Variable Costs take into acount the cost of the PV kit, additional equipment and taxes that are directly related to the sale of the PV system.



5



#### Monthly Sales Estimate (R\$/month)/ Gross Sales for 2018

| Information<br>(integrators with a focus on medium scale PV systems)                                 | Data                 |               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Average Number of Sales                                                                              | 3 sales              | Average Sales |
| Average System Size in 2018                                                                          | 40,4 kWp             | 121.2         |
| Average Price (Integration + Kit) 2018*                                                              | 4,460 R\$/Wp         | kwp/month     |
| Gross Monthly Sales per Integrator (kit + integration) 2018                                          | R\$ 540.552,00/month |               |
| Gross Sales for DG Solar Integrator in 2018 – Medium Size**<br>For January 2018 to June 2018 period. | R\$ 3.243.312,00     |               |

\*Average Price for systems of 40.4 kWp, which is the average size for each system sold by integrators that focus on medium sized PV systems (13-200 kWp).

\*\*Average sales based on Gross Monthly Integrator Sales for the 6 months between January 2018 and June 2018.



| Information<br>(integrators with a focus on medium scale PV systems)   | <b>Data</b><br>(Full Team) |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Rent                                                                   | R\$ 3.000,00               |
| Accounting                                                             | R\$ 1000,00                |
| Energy                                                                 | R\$ 370,00                 |
| Water                                                                  | R\$ 100,00                 |
| Internet/Telephone                                                     | R\$ 500,00                 |
| Marketing                                                              | R\$ 5.000,00               |
| After Sales Support                                                    | R\$ 2.000,00               |
| Supplies / Tools                                                       | R\$ 5.500,00               |
| Team (11 perons) [3 Adm./Com. +1 Manager + 2 Engineers + 5 Installers] | R\$ 39.500,00              |
| Total                                                                  | R\$ 56.970,00              |



Important

These costs are based on an average company focused on medium sized commercial systems (11 employees) with optimized cost structure.



#### Integration Costs for a System of size 40.4 kWp (average system sold)

| Information                       | Data                 |     | Price      |  |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-----|------------|--|
| <b>PV Kit</b> (66,4%)             | 2,961 R\$/Wp         | R\$ | 119.624,16 |  |
| Additional Tools/Equipment (6,6%) | 0,296 R\$/Wp         | R\$ | 11.962,42  |  |
| COGS*                             | 3,257 R\$/Wp (73,0%) | R\$ | 131.586,57 |  |
| Taxes (14%)                       | 0,624 R\$/Wp         | R\$ | 25.225,76  |  |
| Contribution Margin**             | 0,579 R\$/Wp (13%)   | R\$ | 23.371,67  |  |
| Final Price                       | 4,460 R\$/Wp         | R\$ | 180.184,00 |  |

#### Important

Average sales volume for each company in the medium segment is 121.2 kWp, equivalent to the sale of three average systems per month, meaning real costs are approximately triple the figures in this table.

\*COGS=Cost of Goods Sold (Includes all the costs involved for installing and connecting a small PV system, including cost of PV kit).

\*\*Contribution Margin estimated for this example, it may vary depending on company policy (based on average price).

#### **Profit and Loss of Medium Sized Integrator**



\* Approximately the COGS equivalent of three average systems of 40.4 kWp per month.

\*\*Taking into account average monthly cost equivalent to costs for administration, engineering, installers and other fixed costs. It should be noted that for this sales volume, gross income is sufficient to cover fixed costs, meaning the ability to turn a Net Profit.

#### Profit and Loss – Small Sized Integrator Market

| Information                                       | Data              |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| (For Integrators focused on medium scale systems) |                   |
| Average Monthly Net Profit / Company              | R\$ 13.145,00     |
| Average Annual Net Profit / Company               | R\$ 157.740,00    |
| Number of Integrators                             | 620               |
| Estimated Total Annual Net Profit – Integrators   | R\$ 97.798.800,00 |
| Estimated Semi-Annual Net Profit – Integrators    | R\$ 48.899.400,00 |



Important

The information on this table was calculated based on responses to the Greener survey. Naturally certain assumptions had to be made regarding the fixed cost base, which in practice might be much lower – for example, sharing office space with other segments or areas of the company, engineering costs that are diluted over a larger number of projects per month, separate billing for PV kits and services which may reduce VAT or other taxes.

The result of this simplified analysis using average numbers shows that companies focused on the medium/commercial segment are already likely to have achieved their break-even point and are more likely than not to be making a profit.

#### Scenario for the Medium Segment to achieve Breakeven

| Information                                                    | Data                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Integrator's Monthly Cost                                      | R\$ 52.970,00          |
| Variable Cost per product*                                     | R\$ 156.812,33/product |
| Minimum Monthly Sales Requirement                              | R\$ 408.372,52         |
| Average Sales Price per Wp (average system, based on 40.4 kWp) | R\$ 4,46/Wp            |
| Monthly PV Capacity to be sold                                 | 91.56 kWp              |
| Minimum number of Sales required for breakeven                 | 3 sales                |

\*Variable Costs take into acount the cost of the PV kit, additional equipment and taxes that are directly related to the sale of the PV system.

In this calculation, some values were estimated in order to obtain a reference value for the Breakeven point. Conditions for installing, team/HR expenses, the size of the systems that are sold may vary considerably and the number of sales required to achieve breakeven will therefore also be a variable.

Important

The calculation serves as a good indicator for a monthly sales target for a company that is active in this particular market segment.





Source: Greener





### **Greener Insights**





Even with the rapid risein sales of solar modules and PV projects of various types, solar PV's share of electricity generation in Brazil is still very low, not reaching even 1% in any single State. For now, Distributed Generation electricity is still having a negligible impact on the Brazilian grid and on business models of electricity distributors.



Growth is now happening very fast indeed: in the first 6 months of 2018, the DG solar PV sector already sold 38% more new capacity than in the whole of the year 2017. The last years were already showing rapid growth, but this year should surpass those figures.



For systems up to 8 kWp there was a reduction in the average price of PV kits, as opposed to the increase in the second half of 2017. On the other hand, these last 6 months shows a slight increase in prices for all PV kit sizes above 8kWp, mostly due to the sharp rise in value of the US Dollar.



Despite the average price rises for photovoltaic kits, end customers paid less for their PV installations, which shows that integrators are accepting lower margins to try to secure projects, establish a track record, and gain market share.

### **Greener Insights**





Al though the State of São Paulo has the largest number of companies active in the sector, the prices there are still above the national average, for residential, commercial and industrial systems. This is partly due to the higher costing SP (real estate, labour) but also due to heavy competition between integrators.



Based on our simulation for a small-project integrator which only deals with projects below 12 kWp, it becomes clear that for many companies in this segment the market is currently unsustainable. Average sales volumes for companies in this segment don't allow them to pay their fixed costs. It may be necessary to invest in a trained salesperson to increase sales conversion rates and raise sales growth, or to reduce the fixed cost base.



In the case of a solar integrator which is mostly active in the middle market /commercial segment, we see that the average number of monthly project sales already exceeds the number required to break even, therefore this segment already appears to be profitable.



The average payback period for residential systems is in the range of 5 to 6 years, and for commercial systems (Low Tension Grid) it is as low as 4 to 5 years. For industrial systems, average payback is around 7 years. Even with the scale benefits and lower prices that are inherent to larger industrial PV systems, the much lower Medium Tension grid price means payback periods are extended.

#### **Inverter Manufacturers**



#### www.fronius.com.br sac@fronius.com Fronius is in Brazil since 20 years, supplying high technology in Soldering, Solar Energy and Battery Charging.

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#### SUNGROW

www.sungrowpower.com latam@cn.sungrowpower.com Sungrow is a global leader in inverter solutions for renewable energy projects with more than 68GW capacity installed around the world as of June 2018



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#### **PV Module Manufacturers**



www.canadiansolar.com sales.br@canadiansolar.com Canadian Solar is among the world's top 5 solar panel manufacturers, considered tier 1 in technology and quality, and market leader in the Brazilian DG solar market.





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www.trinasolar.com

daniel.pansarella@trinasolar.com

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customer types.





#### **Other Parts and Service Providers**



www.romagnole.com.br <u>comercial@romagnole.com.br</u> For more than 56 years, Romagnole has produced quality products for the electrical energy sector and the company offers a full line of products for mounting solar PV systems.

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www.politec.eng.br

vendas@politec.eng.br

With a successful track record for more than 30 years, Politec supplies mounting structures for ground-based PV systems, solar trackers, and car ports, with currently 30MW installed and annual capacity of up to 200MWp.



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