



## PV getting connected

A growing problem for new PV systems larger than domestic scale is getting connected to the grid. The grid is not set up for distributed generation (generation from many small sources instead of large power stations), and in many areas capacity has been reached.

This means that anyone wanting to connect has to pay for strengthening the grid. Depending on what sort of connection is available, this can cost tens or hundreds of thousands, or even millions, so many new developments are now being lost due to this barrier.

The cost mechanism means that each planned development is considered separately, so grid strengthening costs can sometimes be much higher than if they were shared. Also, even though others will use the equipment, no revenue goes back to the purchaser as it becomes the property of the District Network Operator (DNO).

Industry organisations are working to solve this issue, but if not resolved it could stifle the PV industry over the coming years.

## Web site gallery section

After an initial flurry, there was little posted to the gallery section of the previous MgDB site, so it was decided to drop this section with the new site. A forum topic [dedicated to images](#) has been included so it is still possible to post your images, and some of the old site's images will be used for the home page before logging in.

If you have any comments about this, or would like to receive any images from the old site then please [email](#) us a request.

## New site: account and profile

There are three components to your profile on the new MgDB site.

The first is your account and this is used to log in to the site. This contains minimal information about you.

The second is your forum profile. This contains more information and you can set an image for your account here.

The third is where you can register details of your PV systems. More info can be found by exploring the [FAQs](#).

## New web site now live

The Microgen Database has now been re-issued. The new site went live on Wednesday last week. The site now features images of installations on the pre-sign up page and a slightly different look.

We have had some teething problems, as can be expected, not least when we found that robots had discovered our site and were signing up and spamming the forum, within hours of the site going live! As a result of this we have closed the site to new sign ups, until we patch our security for registering. This does not affect the security of current users' data. If you notice any problems with the new site please [email us](#) with as many details as possible

## Solar approaching parity

A few recent reports point to the fact that solar could reach parity, at least with some of the electricity generating technologies before 2020.

The Solar Trade Association have claimed [in a report](#) that, with the right subsidy mechanisms in place, solar could be as cheap as gas fired generation by 2018. However it is likely to be another five years after that before it reaches parity with wholesale electricity prices,

In a recent seminar they argued that with the correct degression mechanisms in place, a small amount of additional funding, and a shift in focus from small to large scale solar a significant increase could be seen in the amount of solar capacity in the UK by 2020. This could also lead to more stability in the industry.

A [separate report](#) by a German think tank Thema1 suggests that combining batteries with domestic systems may help them to become more competitive without subsidies. The price of batteries is falling rapidly, so perhaps we'll start to see them being introduced over the next few years.

The industry again faces cuts which could be damaging, this time with large scale solar farms being hit and it's unlikely that there will be much certainty in the industry until the next government get their feet under the table.

