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# ABB string inverter achieves first home solar power project

An ABB string inverter has been used on a domestic installation for the first time in the UK. The integrated protection features of the ABB string inverter meant that it was quick to install, as it did not require separate components, such as DC isolators, to be individually wired. This meant the entire electrical system could be installed in about three hours, allowing the whole project to be completed in six hours.

The project was carried out by One Solar Ltd of Sheffield. The company had used other inverters on previous projects but was convinced, that the integrated protection features of the ABB product could offer a fast installation time.

The end user was Darren Beeby, Sales Manager of Halcyon Drives, the largest member of the ABB Drives Alliance. While planning a solar photovoltaic installation for his own home, Darren discovered that ABB offered its own inverter. Darren has been selling ABB drives for 12 years so was aware of their quality and ease of use.

Says Darren: "I had been looking to install solar power for some time, so once I learned that ABB had its own solar inverter, I wasn't going to use any other product."

Darrell Clarke, Electrical Qualifying Supervisor for One Solar, says: "One of our main criteria is reliability, so we were happy to use the ABB inverter because of the reputation of the ABB brand. The integrated DC isolator made for easy installation and the inverter also met our high quality standards. ABB were very helpful throughout the installation process and their representative was very knowledgeable. As a company, we were very satisfied with the ABB inverter and we would recommend it to any company involved in installing solar power projects."

The ABB inverter offers a higher rating than used on most of One Solar's projects so it would be most suitable for their larger installations. Darren's solar power system is a large installation, based on 14 photovoltaic panels. This gives him a peak supply of 3.43 kWhrs, enabling his household to run items such as a washing machine and dishwasher. "I am very pleased with the installation," says Darren, "and the inverter itself is completely noiseless, particularly important in a domestic installation."

The ABB PVS 300 offers additional protection features, such as monitored string fusing and monitored surge protection that were not available on the competitor's product. The overall system costs the same as if the competing inverter was installed but has much improved protection and monitoring features. This includes surge protection for lightning strikes. Although not mandatory at present, this may become so in the future.

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**Caption:** An ABB string inverter has been used on a domestic installation for the first time.

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