# Quality of PV Systems: DC connectors and DC cabelling

# from the perspective of an PV expert

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A<sup>2</sup> & E<sup>2</sup> – Engineering Office Dürschner, Erlangen "Solare Zukunft" Publishing House, Erlangen



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The calculations, framework conditions and the recommendations derived from them are based on the state of knowledge at the time this presentation was created. The underlying framework conditions and the assessments and recommendations based on them may therefore be subject to future changes.



#### Short introduction of the speaker



Born in 1968, Dipl.-Ing. Mechanical engineering

First contact with solar energy in 1986/87 through participation in solar racing competitions (Tour de Sol/Switzerland, World Solar Challenge/Australia, etc.)



Engineering Office for Alternative Drives & Renewable Energies (Erlangen): Yield reports, damage reports, analysis of reduced yields, technical due diligence and economic viability calculations for small, medium and large PV systems. Lectures and training courses on photovoltaics for e.g. OTTI, Schletter, TÜV Rheinland, Solarpraxis.

Co-author of the specialist book "Photovoltaics for Professionals", regular author of the magazine "Sonnenenergie", the magazines "photovoltaik" and "pv-magazine" and much more.



**Solare Zukunft Publishing House** (Erlangen), specializing in "alternative drives and renewable energies"

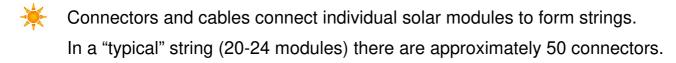


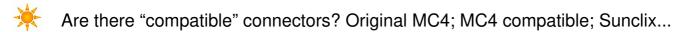
pv magazine

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#### DC connectors / DC cabelling & wires





Sometimes (parts of) solar cables have to be laid underground.

Are the solar cables approved for this? Or do you need special DC cables?

Old: "PV1-F": Double isolated – but can be buried? And waterproof?

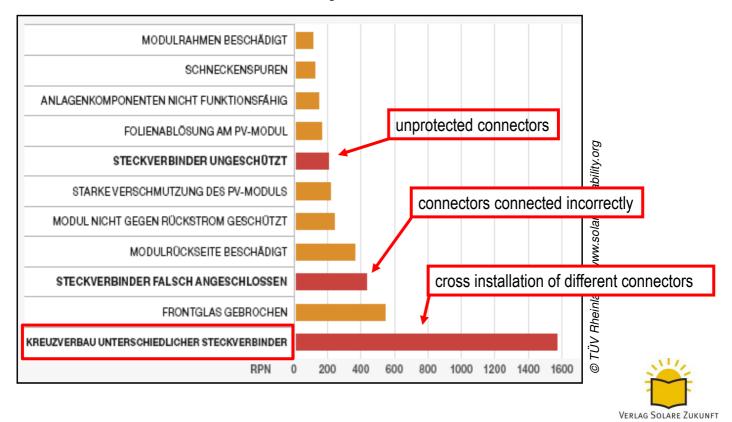
New (2015): "H1Z2Z2-K": Double isolated – but can be buried? And waterproof?

Interruption => temporary / permanent reduction in yield!



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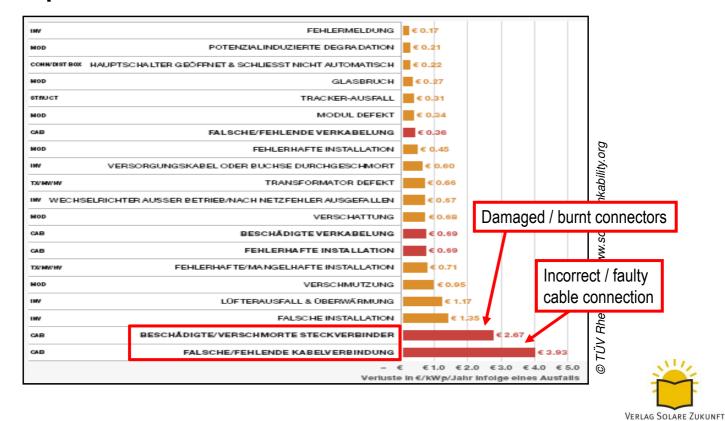
#### Failure Mode Influence Analyses: PV module failures



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# Top 20 technical causes of failure



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#### Are there "compatible" connectors?

Allschwil, 27 August 2012

# ALLGEMEINE ERKLÄRUNG VON MULTI-CONTACT ZUR BEWORBENEN "KOMPATIBILITÄT" ZWISCHEN MULTI-CONTACT MC3/MC4 STECKERN UND STECKERN ANDERER HERSTELLER

Multi-Contact erkennt keine Kompatibilität zwischen Multi-Contact MC3/MC4 Steckern und Steckern anderer Hersteller an.

To date, Multi-Contact has not authorized the claim that third-party products are compatible with Multi-Contact and does not intend to authorize this claim in the future.

Eine ungeeignete Steckverbindung oder die Kombination von Steckern verschiedener Hersteller kann zu frühzeitigen Ausfällen und möglicherweise auch zu Bränden führen.

Deswegen schließt Multi-Contact jegliche Haftung für Schäden im Zusammenhang mit Steck-Kombinationen mit Fremdprodukten aus. In diesen Fällen sind zudem die Zertifizierungen der Stecker erloschen.

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#### Note in the inverter assembly instructions

#### ACHTUNG:

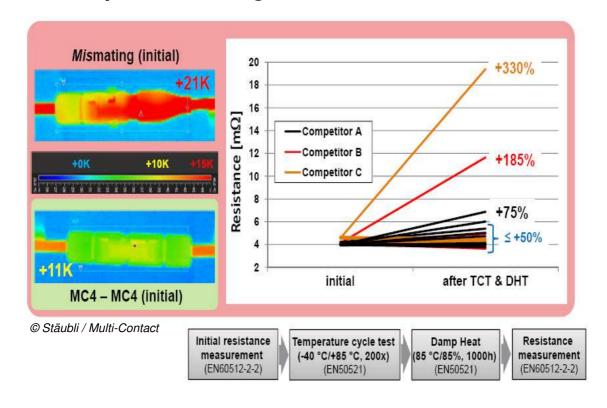
Eine Installation eines SolarEdge Systems, bei der die Kompabilität der Modulanschlüsse und der Optimiereranschlüsse nicht gewährleistet ist, kann unter Umständen nicht sicher sein und es sind Funktionalitätsprobleme wie Erdungsfehler möglich, die zur Abschaltung des Wechselrichters führen. Um die mechanische Kompatibilität der SolarEdge Optimierer und der Module, mit denen sie verbunden sind, sicher zu stellen:

- Use identical connectors from the same manufacturer and model for the power optimizers and the solar panels
- Überprüfen Sie folgendermaßen, ob die Anschlüsse kompatibel sind:
  - Der Hersteller des Anschlusses sollte ausdrücklich die Kompatibilität mit dem SolarEdge Optimierungsstecker bestätigen, und
  - Es sollte ein Testbericht einer der aufgelisteten externen Prüforganisationen (TÜV, VDE, CSA, Bureau Veritas, UL, InterTek) eingeholt werden, der die Kompatibilität der Anschlüsse bestätigt.



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# **Unacceptable heating of DC connectors**



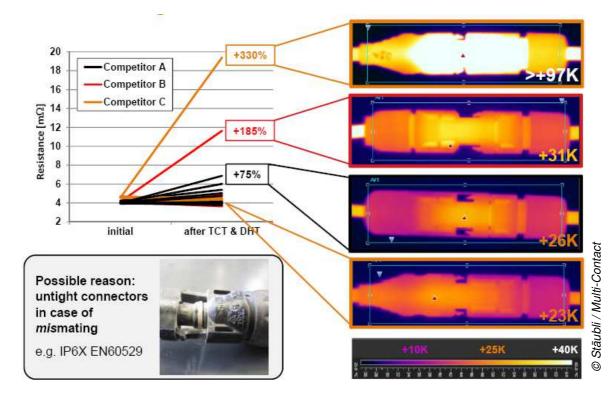


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# **Unacceptable heating of DC connectors**





#### Certification of "compatible" connectors?

This test report refers only to the above-mentioned test sample and Seite 1 von 5 Prüfbericht - Nr.: 21145090 001 may not be reproduced in part without the approval of the testing center. This report does not authorize the use of a test mark. Due to the uncertain situation in the warranty case with combined pairs of connectors from different manufacturers, inspectors of PV systems are required to criticize such combinations. extracts. This test report does not entitle to carry any safety mark on this or similar products.



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## VDE/DKE: Note on cross connection (to VDE 0100-712)

#### Verlautbarung

Kompatibilität von Steckverbindern für die Gleichspannungsseite

Verlautbarung zur DIN VDE 0100-712 (VDE 0100-712):2016

Download





#### Wiring: Corrosion on connectors





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# Wiring: Plug fire





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#### **Changed product features: Different connector**







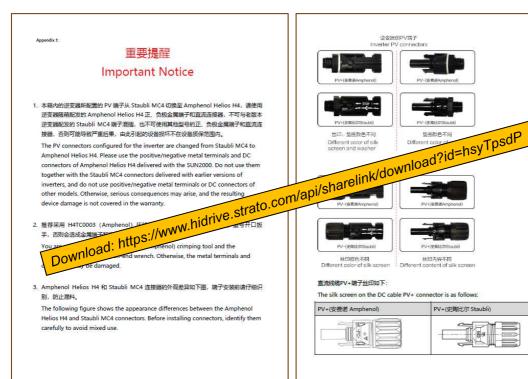


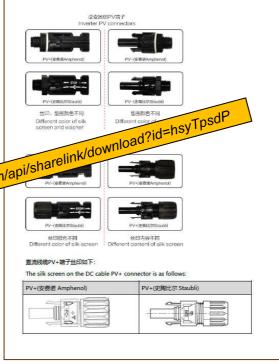
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#### **Changed product features: Different connector**





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#### Fire damage to connectors / Defective DC cables









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#### Fire damage to connectors / Defective DC cables





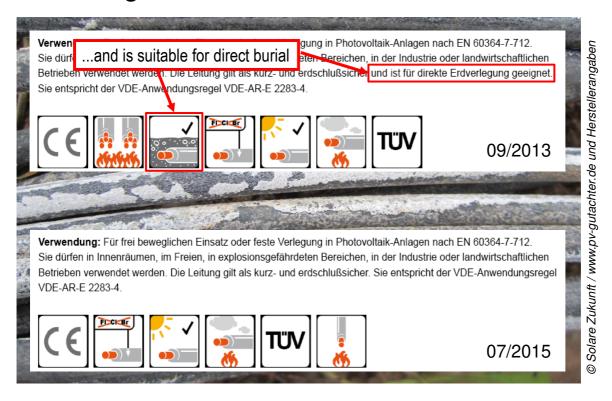
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## Fire damage to connectors / Defective DC cables



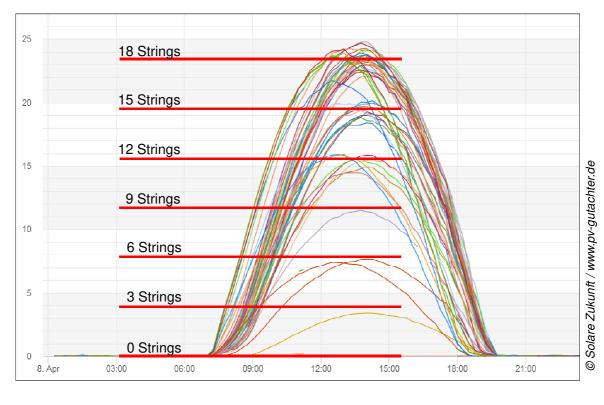


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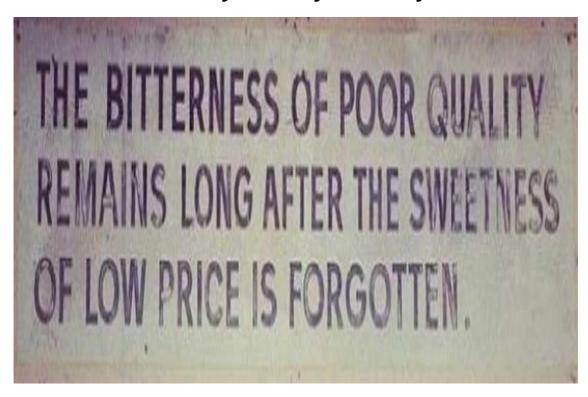
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#### Fire damage to connectors / Defective DC cables





#### **Conclusion: Quality. Quality? Quality!**





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#### Many thanks for your kind attention!



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