

Industry Terms

/'ɪndəstri tɜ:mz/

1. Industry terms can often be confusing.
2. Download this handy guide for simple definitions.
3. Learn the ABC's of your industry and get to know your AC from DC.

Here are some handy definitions for many of the terms & phrases you may encounter in the power conversion industry.

Common Industry Terms

AC Power /eɪ-si: 'paʊə/

1. Alternating Current.
2. Power in an electric circuit is the rate of flow of energy past a given point of the circuit. In alternating current circuits there is periodic reversals of the direction of energy flow. Your household mains power is an AC power supply.

Rectifier /'rɛktɪfaɪə/

An electronic power converter, that turns AC power into DC power.

SOC /ɛs-əʊ-si:/

State of charge, measure of the battery charge condition, 100% is fully charged.

Inverter /ɪn 'vɜ:tə/

An electronic power converter, that turns DC power into AC power.

Fuse /fju:z/

Easily replaced device that internally melts during an electrical fault to prevent damage to other components.

Phase /feɪz/

Identification of the 3 lines of electrical power that make a 3phase supply, referred to as A,B,C or 1,2,3.

Single-phase /'sɪŋgl feɪz/

Single-phase electric power is the distribution of alternating current electric power using a system in which all the voltages of the supply vary in unison. Single-phase distribution is used when loads are mostly lighting and heating, with few large electric motors.

Three-phase /'θri:feɪz/

Three-phase electric power is a common method of alternating current electric power generation, transmission, and distribution. It is a type of polyphase system and is the most common method used by electrical grids worldwide to transfer power. It is also used to power large motors and other heavy loads.

DC Power /di:-si: 'paʊə/

1. Direct Current.
2. Direct current is the unidirectional flow of electric charge. A battery is a good example of a DC power supply. Direct current may flow in a conductor such as a wire, but can also flow through semiconductors, insulators, or even through a vacuum as in electron or ion beams.

DC-DC Converter /di:-si:-di:-si: kən 'vɜ:tə/

An electronic power converter that changes the voltage of DC power.

Common Industry Terms

Firmware /ɪn'vɜ:tə/

Also known as Embedded Software, Firmware is very much like software except it usually runs on a much less powerful microprocessor and often has no traditional user interface. Think of the kind of firmware that is used to run a washing machine, microwave oven, or a car computer where there is no traditional keyboard\screen\mouse etc.

Embedded System /ɪm'bedɪd 'sɪstɪm/

A processor like a computer that runs a firmware program but is used inside a product that doesn't look like a computer (such as a digital watch, digital camera, modern refrigerator, baby monitor).

PLC /pi:-el-si:/

Power Line Communications. Data transmitted between 2 devices over ordinary power line wires, or battery cables.

Bootload /bu:tləʊd/

Setting a microprocessor in a condition where you can load or update its firmware.

Flash /flæʃ/

Process where the firmware is written into the microprocessor's FLASH memory.

Hybrid /'haɪbrɪd/

A DC power system that can utilize multiple different power sources e.g. solar or wind, with a generator, typified by ongoing cyclic use of batteries rather than having associated batteries as a standby backup, only.

U.P.S /ʌps/

Uninterruptable power supply.

Genset /dʒɛnsɛt/

An electric generator, usually diesel powered.

Sulphated /'sʌlfetɪd/

Battery plates have built up a hard sulphate layer which prevents the battery charging and discharging properly.

Flooded Cell /'flʌdɪd sɛl/

Batteries that have liquid electrolyte that can freely vent, also referred to as wet batteries.