

## A-Core Container

# Price of Centralized Inverter



## Overview

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What is a central inverter?

Photo courtesy CPS America. Central inverters are designed to centralize power flows and convert large quantities of power from dc to ac in a single unit. The inputs to central inverters are most often combined dc circuits from many (or all) strings in the array that feed a small number of integrated MPPTs.

Why are central inverters so popular?

Some of the reasons for central-inverter dominance at larger scales are as follows: Lower capital expenditure (CAPEX): While string inverter costs have come down, central inverters are usually cheaper upfront (in dollars-per-watt). Contact your inverter manufacturer for the latest pricing estimates.

How much does an inverter cost?

Medium Residential Systems (6-10 kW): You'll likely need an inverter between 6 and 10 kW, with costs between \$1,800 and \$3,500. Large Residential/Small Commercial Systems (10+ kW): These require inverters 10 kW and above, with prices starting around \$3,000 and going up significantly depending on the specific application.

Which inverter is best?

1. Type of Inverter String inverters are the most affordable. Hybrid inverters cost more because they handle more functionality. Microinverters, one for each panel, have the highest cost per watt due to their quantity. 2.

What are the most common applications for central inverters?

Utility-scale projects above ~10 MW are the most common application today. Large C&I and smaller utility-scale projects from just a few years ago are likely to have central inverters as well, for reasons we'll touch on in the next section.

How many kilowatts can a central inverter handle?

Pad-mounted central inverter co-located with a medium-voltage transformer. The first PV inverters were developed in the 1980s as a spinoff of drive system technologies. At the time, all models could be considered central inverters rated to handle no more than a few kilowatts.

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## Contact Us

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