Digital Controls Technology
Not All Controls Are The Same
Integrated Controls vs Supervisory Controls

In 1995, Cummins Power Generation introduced the first fully integrated PowerCommand®
digital controls across its entire range of commercial generator sets. These microprocessor-
based controls are the industry’s only total integrated platform which is capable of integrating
engine, alternator control and protection functionality into a common system.

Unlike other manufacturers, Cummins products are designed as a single system, not individual
components of a larger system. This single integrated control system can control prime mover
and generator and provide other control functions that increase reliability.

As part of PowerCommand power systems, digital controls combine generator, transfer and
controls technologies into the only pre-integrated system designed by one manufacturer-
Cummins Power Generation, to provide a single source of accountability for peace of mind to our
customers.

Integrated Controls

■ Greater efficiency of facility design by reduction in
physical space requirements provides lower total cost
of ownership.

■ Provides higher reliability by reduction in the number
of components to minimize points of failure in the
system.

■ Developed with the generator set to work with
alternator and engine to provide better reliability and
integrated built-in protection capability.

Supervisory Controls

■ A supervisory control system tends to have a higher
total cost of ownership due to the number of individual
components used.

■ In supervisory control systems, a higher number of
points of failure resulting in lower reliability are to be
expected.

■ Supervisory controls lack integration thereby providing
points of failure for protection and reliability.

**FIGURE 1** – In a digital environment, all engine, generator and load
control functions are combined in a small digital central control unit.
Reliability is enhanced because interconnections have been reduced.

**FIGURE 2** – This illustrates the various analog components required
in a utility paralleling application. Note the number of separate
components, wires and connections—all which detract from
reliability.
Cummins PowerCommand®
Digital Controls Technology™

As a world leader in pre-integrated power systems, Cummins designs and builds all the key components of the power system including generator sets, transfer switches, digital master controls complete with switchgear and remote monitoring control into one fully integrated value package. The single accountability for the entire system is clearly with Cummins. With the Power of One™, we not only supply the whole system, we design and manufacture the entire control system.

Using common communications protocols, these components utilize fully integrated PowerCommand microprocessor-based controls for all system control and protection functions. The inherent control capabilities of the system components allow for the design of more intelligent power systems, resulting in major gains in the areas where designers and users need them the most.

Enhanced System Reliability

- PowerCommand generator set controls, automatic transfer switch controls and digital master controls utilize distributed logic. In the event of a loss of a single component, the controls are designed to operate independently, which in turn provides a reduced system and not a total system failure.

- The integration of PowerCommand components allows the elimination of many components in a typical system to minimize single points of failure and improve system reliability.

As a single-source manufacturer of complete power systems, we provide the highest degree of design and performance control to ensure each element works in harmony and seamlessly, based on decades of field proven reliability.

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Generator Set Control
Enhanced Efficiency and Performance

PowerCommand® is a microprocessor-based generator set monitoring, metering and control system designed to meet the demands of today’s engine driven generator sets. This single integrated control system can directly operate the engine fuel system in conjunction with an engine control unit where appropriate, directly control the alternator excitation system and provide other control functions that increase reliability.

PowerCommand controls are interchangeable (can be easily upgraded so future expansion is less costly), interoperable (can be easily interfaced with other equipment to share data) and internet-able (can be linked to the internet for easier and more reliable remote monitoring and operating).

Alternator Protection

Conventional generator set protective systems often do not adequately protect the generator set and can malfunction, resulting in nuisance system failures.

Ampsentry™ protection is designed to eliminate nuisance generator set failures that occur with molded-case breaker protection to provide a higher standard of protection for the alternator. It guards the electrical integrity of the alternator against thermal damage.

Diagram 1 - Digital sensing and protection is matched to the damage curve. PowerCommand digital control uses a trip characteristic that approximates the damage curve to prevent excessive heat build-up to provide alternator protection.

Starter Battery Protection

The leading cause of a generator set failing to start is mainly due to flat starting batteries. Cummins provides general start protection with our low and high battery voltage warning indicator to continuously monitor battery voltage. The control system will monitor the battery to detect a failure in the charging system, and a ‘weak battery’ alarm sounds when the battery voltage drops too far and recovery is extended (refer to diagram 2). This ensures improved generator set reliability and repeated stability.

Smart Starting Control System

When the engine is in a starting mode, the smart starting control system checks for engine rotation and provides enough fuel to accelerate the engine gradually to reach rated speed to eliminate black smoke upon starting. The digital control system can also adjust the governor settings based on temperature of the engine to make it more stable on starting and more responsive as it warms up.

Diagram 3 – In most conventional generator sets, the engine speed control system does not ‘know’ that the generator set is in a starting mode. Consequently, the control tends to over-fuel the engine during startup, resulting in a cloud of black smoke from the exhaust.


**First Start Sensor**

Cummins Power Generation pioneered the use of First Start Sensor interlock technology to prevent simultaneous closure of unsynchronized generator sets to a dead system bus. A backup dead-bus sensor system in each control allows the system to properly start after a power failure.

*Diagram 4* – The PowerCommand® First Start Module uses inter-generator set arbitration to permit only one unit to close to the bus first. All others are inhibited from closing to the bus, until arbitration has determined which generator set shall be the selected first-to-close unit.

**Breaker Failure Protection**

Breaker failure protection controls and monitors breaker closure signals and provides a warning or shutdown if the breaker fails to close or open upon command to prevent system malfunction or generator damage.

**Emissions Control**

The ability of digital systems to integrate diverse functions is especially important in modern emissions-controlled diesel engines. Integrating engine control functions (fuel rate and injection timing) with fluctuation in generator load is critical for minimizing exhaust emissions from diesel engines. In fully integrated digital systems as found on PowerCommand generator sets, these functions are integrated in the digital master control. This results in better engine performance under varying loads, reduced exhaust emissions and more stable output frequency and voltage.

**Digital Synchronizing**

PowerCommand generator set controls operate over a very broad bus voltage and frequency operating range, and over very broad ambient conditions. The generator set governing controls are temperature dynamic, automatically adjusting governing characteristics to account for changes in engine operating temperature. This enables the system to synchronize even in the event of instability on the bus or abnormal frequency conditions.

**Reduced Space Requirements**

Digital controls allow many control systems to be located with the generator set instead of being isolated in a separate dust- and-vibration-free room. This occupies less floor space and requires less environmental protection to simplify installation, commissioning and reduce maintenance and repair.

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Generator Set Control
PowerCommand® 3.3
with Masterless Load Demand (MLD) Control Technology

The PowerCommand 3.3 MLD is a fully featured genset control with built-in Masterless Load Demand (MLD) technology. The integration of all control functions including voltage regulation, governing and paralleling into a single control system provides enhanced reliability and performance compared to conventional generator set control systems.

Masterless Load Demand-capable generators are equipped with an additional s-CAN network connection that allows sharing of information amongst paralleled generator sets. The generator set controls use this information to start/stop generator sets automatically based on load demand.

- **Reduced Fleet Operation Costs**: Improves fuel efficiency of multi-gen systems by running the minimum number of gensets to match actual load requirements
- **Supports Large Fleet Operation**: Up to 16 generator sets running in parallel
- **Easy Setup/Commissioning**: Change MLD system settings from any one display and broadcast to all generator sets
- **Built-in Logic**: Hassle-free installation with no additional equipment needed
- **Predictive Load Input**: Intelligently anticipates large loads and adds capacity to provide reliable operation
- **Single Point Remote Start**: Brings system online quickly for a fast start up operation
- **System Monitoring**: View information about the entire system from any one display
- **Fast Response Time**: Via s-CAN communication network
- **Run-Hour Equalization**: Run-hour equalization feature extends engine life to reduce onsite support

Digital Master Control
Ease of Operation and Adaptability

PowerCommand® digital master control (DMC) utilizes an integrated distributed logic control system design that ensures each major component in the system operates autonomously in the event of failure of other system components to improve system reliability.

The use of a dedicated-purpose DMC allows the provision of fully prototype-tested control hardware for load adding/shedding and load demand as well as a serial interface to a HMI and alarm and status panels.

As facility use changes, often the control system needs to change or adapt. With our standard and preconfigured PowerCommand digital master controls, system flexibility and reduced site configuration complexity can be achieved with the use of standard software designed for multiple system topologies. This functionality also means no additional programming is required, giving you ease of use and adaptability.
Remote Monitoring
PowerCommand® 500 Series Remote Monitoring System

PowerCommand remote monitoring equipment provides a convenient means of remotely monitoring and controlling generator sets, transfer switches, sensors and output controls. Designed for minimal service and support, the PowerCommand 500 series with remote monitoring system provides an authorised user visibility of their power system from anywhere or at anytime - whether the user is onsite or offsite.

- Provides seamless integration with Cummins Power Generation controls (generator set, transfer switch and expansion I/O modules) to reduce configuration and installation time
- Employs a straightforward graphical interface to monitor data and display overall system and device status (generator set, transfer switch, sensors and output controls)
- Ability to store system and device events, including faults and warnings triggered on a generator set, transfer switch and PowerCommand 500/550
- Easy access to PowerCommand 500/550 user interface over TCP/IPv4 anywhere in the world with an onboard web server to provide system and hardware diagnostics and troubleshooting remotely
- Easy setup of menu displays with graphical icons to control generator set and transfer switch set functions for efficient navigation and configuration
- Provides system and device event data logs containing detailed status of analog and discrete inputs – data log time intervals are configurable for each device type

InPower™

InPower is a PC-based software tool for direct service of PowerCommand products. Available in two editions, InPower uses a graphical interface compatible with Microsoft Windows® to provide direct connection capability.

**InPower Pro:** Allows users to modify and configure a range of settings within the control for advanced application-specific customization and monitoring of generator set operation and performance parameters.

**InPower Lite:** Enables users to check parameter settings for diagnostics and troubleshooting purposes.

Advanced Serviceability

**Calibrations & Adjustments**
Users are able to calibrate a new piece of hardware to its appropriate setting and adjust different variables to improve and meet specific performance characteristics.

**Fault Information System (FIS)**
InPower has a built in Fault Information System (FIS) that lists a number of faults and relevant troubleshooting methodologies for them.

**Strip Chart and Monitor**
The strip chart and monitor feature enables users to graphically display and monitor relevant equipment performance data in real time.

**Calibration Capture Files**
InPower allows users to take a snapshot of the settings loaded to a device that can be used to backup current settings or revert back.

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