



## Operations and Maintenance Engineer (C&I)

### Introduction to SOLA

The SOLA Group is a vertically-integrated provider of renewable energy solutions, aiming to transform Africa through clean energy. With over 13 years of experience, SOLA's expertise lies in the origination, development, financing, engineering design, project management and Operations and Maintenance of renewable energy facilities. For more information, visit [www.solagroup.co.za](http://www.solagroup.co.za).

### The overall purpose of the position:

The purpose of this role is to ensure that all contracted Solar PV C&I sites operate properly and efficiently, and to keep energy production and demand savings for each site in line with the expectations of the client and also within contracted performance guarantees.

**Reports to:** Head of Engineering and Operations

**Location:** Cape Town

### Summary of Responsibilities:

#### Technical

##### Strings/PV modules

- Troubleshooting string/PV module faults with string tester/equipment and guide O&M technicians to do the same.
- Understand and interpret string tester/equipment readings, record results and relay to engineering colleagues.
- Identify faulty strings and rectify faults.

##### Communications

- Conduct fault finding on comms boards and understand layout.
- Identifying the cause of malfunctioning components and determining how to correct the fault.
- Checking the health of inverters online/remote/on site.
- Interpret yield deviations and relate these to real site conditions (e.g. shading or likely technical problems).
- Identify when inverters are malfunctioning and interpret error codes.
- Identify when to call in the supplier/OEM or whether to fix in-house.

##### Inverters

- Operate and work with inverters eg. check for and perform firmware updates on inverters either remotely or on site, using various protocols.
- Log into inverters, download logs and use inverter manufacturer software/interface at inverters (variety of inverter manufacturers).
- Working with manufacturer support to fix errors.
- Replace inverters: liaising with inverter manufacturers, and carry out the physical replacement and commissioning of the inverter.
- Supervising replacement of damaged inverters, solar panels, breakers and any other faulty equipment on site.

##### General

- Troubleshooting various issues on site and rectifying issues.
- Install power meters and troubleshoot issues.
- Responsible for the maintenance of site performance guarantees, ensuring that solar PV installations operate optimally.
- Advising C&I O&M Manager of recommended cleaning cycles and intervals of PV modules.
- Become the technical lead and support person on SOLA O&M monitoring platforms for all C&I installations.

#### Administrative/Operational

- Compile technical information in support to C&I O&M Manager for monthly client reports.

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- Updating of maintenance tracker documentation after each site visit.
- Completing Project Handover Processes.
- Other administrative tasks and reporting as required from time to time.

#### Interpersonal

- Liaise with internal and external stakeholders by attending to their queries both verbally and in writing.
- Work closely with the O&M Technicians, Solar Panel Cleaners and other Engineers to ensure the optimal operations of each site.

#### Key Performance Indicators

- Maintaining site performances in terms of Performance Ratios and Energy Yield Guarantees
- Quick turnaround time for resolving identified faults within the C&I fleet and effective historical tracking of faults to resolve when possible
- Reduction in frequency of occurrence of faults within the C&I fleet

#### Minimum Requirements:

##### Technical

- At minimum, have a BTech or Bachelors Degree in Electrical Engineering.
- Approximately 5 years experience in a similar role.
- Commissioning of new C&I Solar PV installations.
- Understand and be competent with Ethernet and Serial communications networks.
- Understanding of power system protection, relays and breaker operation.
- Must be able to troubleshoot/create drivers.
- Experience in SQL, Python/Javascript code.
- Experience and competence in PLC coding.
- Must be comfortable using solar string testers, multimeters and hand tools.
- Must have proven experience with electronics and communications hardware.
- Must be physically able to work at heights (completed certification will be beneficial).
- Must be fully computer literate (MS Office and Google App Suite) and have working understanding of communications software.
- Must be fully proficient in English (verbal and written communication) and articulate, detailed in all communications especially for preparing monthly client reports.
- Must have a valid driver's license and his/her own reliable transport; should also be willing to use your own vehicle for business travel.

##### Behavioral

- The ideal candidate will be highly organised and able to coordinate other team members.
- Must enjoy finding technical faults and be excellent at solving technical issues.
- Be able to diligently and conscientiously deal with and manage a variety of client queries.
- Able to take initiative, be proactive and self-start on tasks.
- Must be a person of integrity and honesty.
- Willing to travel nationally to other sites as needed.
- The ideal candidate will be passionate about the renewable energy industry and social impact and will embody respect and responsibility in the full sense of the word while enjoying contributing to a team of highly knowledgeable professionals.

At SOLA one of our core values is *Dig Diversity* and we are committed to transformation and embracing diversity. This commitment is what drives us to achieve a diverse and inclusive workplace, representative of the demographics of our society. We therefore give preference to applicants from the designated groups in alignment with our Employment Equity plan.

**To apply for this vacancy, please complete this screening questionnaire ([click here](#)) and email an updated CV to [hireme@solagroup.co.za](mailto:hireme@solagroup.co.za). Please note the position title in the subject line.**

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