

# Thermal imaging inspection of solar photovoltaic panels

What is drone thermal imaging for PV inspections?

Curve Tracers) HOW DRONE THERMAL IMAGING HELPS PV INSPECTION To complement and enhance manual electrical testing, the use of drone thermal imaging for PV inspections, also known as aerial thermography, is increasingly required in contracts for PV system commissioning and maintenance due to the spe

Can you use thermal imaging to inspect solar panels?

Thermal imaging can be used to inspect solar panels under load, so no shutdown is required. When used properly, thermal imaging cameras will show accurate temperature differences between cells or within a single cell that allow you to identify faults at an early stage.

Does a thermal image indicate a fault in a PV panel?

Considering that the change of the visual image does not necessarily mean the presence of a fault in a PV panel, the thermal image of the PV panel is more favoured in the practice of PV panel condition monitoring (Kandael et al., 2021a).

Can thermal images detect solar panel damage?

This study proposes a method for detecting and localizing solar panel damage using thermal images. The proposed method employs image processing techniques to detect and localize hotspots on the surface of a solar panel, which can indicate damage or defects.

What are the best conditions for a drone thermal imaging solar inspection?

Ideal conditions for a drone thermal imaging solar inspection are clear and sunny with low wind speeds. Later in the day works better so the field has time to heat up to an optimal irradiance level. Thermal signature is most prominent on heated PV panels.

Can remote sensing detect anomalies in photovoltaic systems?

In this research, a remote sensing method is proposed for the fast and efficient detection of anomalies in photovoltaic (PV) systems. An infrared radiation (IR) camera mounted on flying vehicles (e.g., drone) to capture IR images of solar panels. Then, convolutional neural networks (CNN) are developed to detect abnormal cells in the PV systems.

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