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ESIF ARCS System

The Advanced Research Control Supervisor (ARCS) is the main user interface used to control and monitor ESIF equipment and systems.

- 50,000+ data points and sensors
- 11,500+ alarms configured
- 265+ screens, popups, and templates
- 4 redundant servers with 6 TB of RAM

The ARCS features an experiment recipe management system to automatically configure and operate complex experiments that span multiple voltages, frequencies, test equipment, and renewable energy sources.

The ARCS supervises the fire and gas detection systems for critical facility safety functions. Further, the ARCS can interface with outside vendor equipment using a wide variety of communications protocols.

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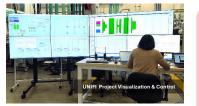
ESIF RDNS System

The Research Data Network System (RDNS) provides projectfocused control, automation, visualization, and data storage capabilities, enabling a single pane of glass for ESIF research projects.

The RDNS provides low latency and high data throughput for timesynchronized measurements collected across the ESIF with nanosecond resolution. The capability includes data visualization through Grafana dashboards and responsive human-machine interface (HMI) screens as well as localized time-series databases for storing and tagging research data.

- Signal sampling and storage up to 50 kHz
- 150+ Industrial Internet of Things protocols
- Software integration with MATLAB and National Instruments Interfaces with ARCS, ESIF High Performance Computing, Data Analysis and Visualization, Azure, and Amazon Web Services

For the UNIFI project, RDNS provided HMI data visualization and storage from a distributed set of power measurement terminals.





ESIF REDB System

The ESIF Research Electrical Distribution Bus (REDB) consists of electrical power networks that connect devices located across the facility through versatile, automatic circuit configuration.

AC REDB

- 250-A and 1600-A buses • 0 to 600-V voltage range

DC REDB • 250-A and 1600-A buses • 0 to 1000-V voltage range

The ESIF supports megawatt-scale experiments across four AC and DC bus networks that integrate a variety of grid, solar PV, and battery simulators with inverters, loads, and other emerging technologies. The REDB system supports research in grid-forming validation, EV charging, microgrids, distributed energy resource management systems, and distribution power electronics conversion.

The REDB system is closely integrated with the other ESIF research systems. The REDB enables dynamic operation of commercial fuel cells and electrolyzers from the hydrogen system. Operating the 250-kW combined heat and power gas microturbines requires both the REDB and the thermal system. The ARCS system provides a means to control and monitor the connections between systems while the RDNS records electrical signals and captures system responses along the buses.



ESIF Hydrogen System

The ESIF hydrogen system functions as a highly adaptive, research-focused hydrogen hub-capable of large-scale hydrogen production, drying, compression, storage, and delivery to laboratory end uses.

A wide variety of research activities are supported by the hydrogen system, including bench-scale cell membrane materials development, gas sensor performance validation, commercial fuel cell and electrolyzer performance testing, light-duty and heavy-duty hydrogen vehicle fueling, and the production of other renewable fuels (e-fuels).

- The hydrogen system provides:
- 1-MW electrolyzer stack testing
- 18-kg/h full-capacity hydrogen production
- 650 kg of outdoor hydrogen storage up to 13,000 psi

The recent Heavy-Duty Fueling Methods and Components project leveraged the advanced capabilities of the ESIF hydrogen system in a cross-lab, multi-industry partner collaboration to reach new targets in fast-flow fueling of heavy-duty hydrogen vehicles.

While validating specialized hydrogen fueling hardware, developing new fueling standards and protocols, and refining legacy fueling models, the researchers achieved an 80-kg fill in approximately 6.5 minutes, with an average fill rate of 12.5 kg/min and a peak fill rate of 23 kg/min.



Research Chilled Water

- 230-GPM pump
 - 700-kW (200 ton) chiller
 - 30°F-65°F temperature range
- Research Hot Water • 115-GPM pump
- - 205-kW (700 kBTU/h) boiler • 100°F-180°F temperature range
- Researchers have used the chilled and hot water facilities with a 570-Wh ice storage tank and a 105-kW (30-ton) chiller to develop simulations for building energy costs, accounting for different control modes, complex electricity rates from utilities, and on-site solar PV generation.



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The ESIF consists of a living network of diverse systems designed, maintained, and advanced by the ESIF Research Operations group to enable cutting-edge energy integration research.

ESIF Thermal System

The ESIF research thermal system is a network of water-filled piping that branches throughout the facility to provide heating, chilling, and thermal management services to research projects and equipment.

Composed of three circulating loops conditioned with a research boiler, research chiller, and rooftop coolers, the thermal system is essential for residential and commercial HVAC research, low- and high-temperature thermal energy storage projects, and providing cooling to ensure safe and stable operations of all heat-producing research devices and processes across the facility.

Secondary Cooling Water • 600-GPM pump

• 1800-kW cooling capacity

• 70°F nominal temperature