

PowerPlus Energy & Morningstar

Introduction:

With over four million sold since 1993, Morningstar is recognized as the expert in charging technology throughout the solar industry. As solar-plus-storage becomes more prevalent in mainstream installations, battery chemistries are becoming more advanced—and battery makers are increasingly looking for ways to help their customers maintain and protect their long-term investment.

Morningstar's *Energy Storage Partner Program™* (ESP) makes it possible for selected premium battery partners to offer additional value and support for their customers by offering them a more proven, better documented and controlled storage system. With energy storage typically accounting for a very large share of the overall system's cost, ESP helps advanced chemistry battery manufacturers to provide the maximum level of assurance that system owners and operators need. This document is intended to provide essential information and recommendations for integrating Morningstar charge controllers with the Energy Storage Partner's batteries. Proper integration of these products is dependent upon successful implementation of the custom settings outlined in the sections below. These settings are the result of cooperation between manufacturers and have been agreed upon by both parties.

Battery Overview:

Powerplus Energy Solutions is an Australian manufacturer of Lithium Ferro Phosphate (LFP) batteries used in many solar and industrial applications. Currently, they offer 24V and 48V battery modules that are equipped with an internal Battery Management System (BMS). These units offer a level of operation and design flexibility often not found in alternative solutions.

Even though the LiFePO₄ cells are considered to be a very stable and safe form of Lithium-ion, the internal BMS adds enhanced protection and cell balancing that enables drop-in replacement of lead-acid batteries with unlimited parallel storage capacity. To increase the functionality even further, Powerplus is introducing a number of additional features that will broaden the appeal to a more advanced audience. These features include:

- Increased safety and protection
- Programmable settings (i.e for voltage and current thresholds)
- Series stacking for higher voltages
- Individual string monitoring with a Master BMS
- Access to 'read' data via CANbus or 3rd-party web interface

This enhanced functionality, coupled with the ability to meet the demands of high temperature performance and the requirements of single- and 3-phase inverter systems, the Powerplus batteries are equipped to serve the needs of both current and future Morningstar products.

Models: [LiFe1213N](#), [LiFe2413N](#), [LiFe4813N](#), [ECO4840P](#), [LiFe2433P](#), [LiFe4833P](#)

Voltages: 12V, 24V, 48V

Amp Hour Capacities: 25-128Ah

Note: For information regarding battery bank configuration options, please contact the battery manufacturer.

For optimal integration, the recommended settings (based on 12V nominal values) are as follows:

Critical Settings:

Absorption Voltage = 14.00 V

Absorption Time = 30 min

Temperature Compensation = 0.0 V/degC (Disabled)

Float/Float Voltage/Timeout = Enable/13.80 V/30 min (Float stage not required while battery is in storage)

Equalize = Not enabled

Battery HVD/High Voltage Disconnect/Reconnect = Enable/14.50 V/14.00 V

Load LVD (Low Voltage Disconnect) 12.25 V

Load LVR (Low Voltage Reconnect) 13.00 V

Note:

Many lithium batteries include a BMS that can implement an internal battery disconnect in the event of a deep discharge to prevent permanent damage to the battery chemistry. It is important that proper low voltage load disconnect settings are used to prevent this from occurring during charging. Damage to the controller due to a battery disconnect during charging is typically not covered under warranty. Incidental damage to loads is also not covered under warranty.

Optional Recommended Settings:

Absorption Ext = Not enabled

Low Battery Temperature Foldback = Optional (High limit = 1 degC, Low limit = 0 degC)

Battery Service Reminder = Not enabled (Monitor battery health using 3rd-party shunt meter/coulomb counter)

Float Cancel = Not enabled

Max Regulation Limit = Not enabled

Battery Current Limit = Optional (1C max, 0.5C recommended)

Delay Before Load LVD 1 min (Possibly longer for cold temperatures)

Load Current Compensation Default = 0.005 Ω (V/A), should be calculated based on 0.35/C (Reduces Load LVD based on size of load with respect to battery Ah capacity)

Load HVD/High Voltage Disconnect/Reconnect..... Enable/15.00 V/14.50 V (Can be used to protect loads from voltage spikes in the event of battery failure during charging operation)

Battery Charge LED Indications (Not intended for accurate SoC measurement):

LED G → G/Y 75%+ = 13.25 V (3.3125 V/per cell)

LED G/Y → Y 50% - 74% = 13.0 V (3.25 V/per cell)

LED Y → Y/R 25% - 49% = 12.75 V (3.1875 V/per cell)

LED Y/R → R 10% or below = 12.5 V (3.125 V/per cell)

(More information regarding these settings provided by Morningstar)

These settings are available for the Morningstar controllers listed below:

12-24V systems:

ProStar MPPT (includes low temperature foldback to limit the max. charge current)

SunSaver MPPT

ProStar (PWM) Gen 3 (includes low temperature foldback to limit the max. charge current)

12-48V systems:

TriStar MPPT (compatible with 12V, 24V, 36V, 48V, 60V nominal systems)

TriStar MPPT 600V (compatible with 24V, 36V, 48V and 60V nominal systems) **[not compatible w/ 12V]**

TriStar [PWM] (compatible with 12V, 24V, 36V and 48V nominal systems)



ENERGY STORAGE PARTNER PROGRAM™



Communications hardware required for programming Custom Settings with MSView:

ProStar MPPT, ProStar (Gen 3), SunSaver MPPT

UMC-1 USB MeterBus Adapter- <http://www.morningstarcorp.com/products/usb-meterbus-adapter/>

MSC PC RS-232 MeterBus Adapter- <http://www.morningstarcorp.com/products/pc-meterbus-adapter/>

EMC-1 Ethernet MeterBus Converter-
<http://www.morningstarcorp.com/products/ethernet-meterbus-converter/>

TriStar, TriStar MPPT, TS-MPPT-600V
Includes an RS-232 port for connection to a PC.

EMC-1 Ethernet MeterBus Converter-
<http://www.morningstarcorp.com/products/ethernet-meterbus-converter/>

Tripp Lite U209-000-R USB / Serial DB-9 (RS-232) Adapter Cable (not available from Morningstar)

All TS-MPPT-60 (150V and 600V) models also include an Ethernet port and EIA-485 port.

MSView Software Download: <http://www.morningstarcorp.com/msview/>

MSView Configuration Files:
<https://www.morningstarcorp.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Powerplus-MSView-Configuration-Files.zip>

Other links:

[Morningstar Best Practices by Battery Chemistry](#)

[Morningstar Custom Settings Info Pages](#)

IMPORTANT:

PowerPlus Energy and Morningstar Corporation are separate companies with unaffiliated ownership.

Neither PowerPlus Energy nor Morningstar Corporation make any warranties explicit or implied with this product information. Morningstar makes no representation or assumption of liability regarding the charging requirements for any type of battery or model.

Some of the material being presented may be based on information that has been provided by other parties such as battery specs and operational parameters.

Performance may vary depending on use conditions and application.