

A concept of line automation system as a separate component of the future SMART GRID

Oleksandr Savchenko, Oleksandr Mirosnyk,
Irina Trunova, Anatoliy Sereda
Kharkiv Petro Vasylenko National Technical
University of Agriculture, Ukraine

Oleksiy Iegorov
O.M. Beketov National University of Urban
Economy in Kharkiv, Ukraine

Annotation. The article represents the authors' vision on the prospects of development of automation tools, which are used on power lines. Currently available automation elements of power lines such as various monitoring systems, control devices are overviewed. It is noted about the need for integration of such elements installed on certain power line into one system. It gives the reason for introducing the concept of Line Automation System (LAS), which can be considered as one of the elements of electric power system automation and also as a component of the future Smart Grid. Some scientific studies call lines equipped with such systems as Smart Power Lines. The structural scheme of LAS is proposed and the groups of LAS sensors are described. The general requirements for LASs and their functionalities were formulated. LASs implementing prospects and their key technologies are discussed.

Keywords – Line Automation System (LAS), power line control, power line monitoring, Smart Power Line.

I. INTRODUCTION

Currently, the main trend of electric power systems development in the world is the widespread adoption of Smart Grid technologies. The most complete Smart Grid concept is reflected in the definition of IEEE as a fully integrated electric power system, characterized by self-regulation and self-healing features and managed in real time [1]. Self-regulation and self-healing are the key characteristics of Smart Grid, through which high reliability of power supply with high-quality energy is achieved. The basis for realization of these properties is implementation of monitoring of the various processes taking place in the grid, and also control devices that provide network "adaptation" to existing conditions caused by external and internal factors.

The monitoring systems of processes associated with power lines have become a frequent practice recently [2, 3]. Such systems are often called Real-Time Monitoring Systems (RTMSs). By this system, usually they mean system for determining the permissible capacity of overhead power line (OPL) based on the wire temperature and current monitoring [4]. In this paper the term RTMS refers to the system that can provide real-time monitoring of parameters of different nature characterizing the state of the power line. The list of functional capabilities of the system depends on the specific conditions of the line. For example, climatic conditions, including ice and wind effects, refer to the factors of external influence on OPL. Therefore RTMSs of OPLs, which pass in climate areas with high level of ice loads, should be equipped with software and hardware that allow to monitor the ice and wind conditions and critical parameters of the line in a real-time regime [5].

Automatic switching devices, such as reclosers [6], different types of FACTS – OPL pole mounted voltage

regulators [7], reactive power regulators [8], devices that implement the technology of "smart" wires [9, 10], etc., belong to control devices which have recently been actively used on power lines. In the future, we can expect increasing of application of such devices on power lines.

RTMS equipment and control devices installed on the power line are the bottom level of an automated system that provides monitoring of various processes associated with the line, transmitting a part of the data to the control center, and control actions issuing, including automatically. Such complex automated systems implemented in substations are known to be called Substation Automation Systems (SASs) [11].

Wide application on power lines of real-time monitoring technologies and various control devices requires their association in one software and hardware complex of integrated automation system (AS) of power line, which will provide new performance capabilities. It affords ground for considering the automation system of power line as a separate component of the electric power system automation. This point of view corresponds to the traditional approach of structural division of electric power systems on such basic elements as power plants, substations, power lines, electricity consumers. For the definitions of automation systems that can be implemented on separate power lines, this paper uses the term Line Automation System, abbreviated as LAS. In [12] the line equipped with automation system, the lower level of which is RTMS and switching devices providing line impedance control, is called Smart Power Line.

As known, the second edition of one of the major standards for information exchange in SASs IEC-61850 is extended to automation systems of other power system objects, as reflected in its title "Communication networks and systems for power utility automation" [13]. According to the IEC approach, SAS is one of the possible subsystems of Power Utility Automation System (PUAS). Thus, LAS can also be considered as one of these subsystems, and at the same time as a separate component of "smart" networks of the future.

As a technical analogy of LAS, automation systems of such elongated engineering objects as gas and oil pipelines can be given [14, 15].

The types of LAS functions are generally similar to the functions of SAS – these are relay protection, automation functions, monitoring, remote indication and control.

LAS, together with SAS, can be considered as one of the basic components of transmission and distribution automation systems, DASs and TASs respectively. Fig. 1 shows the LAS location in PUAS. Obviously, the concept of LAS can be used in relation to both overhead and cable power lines.

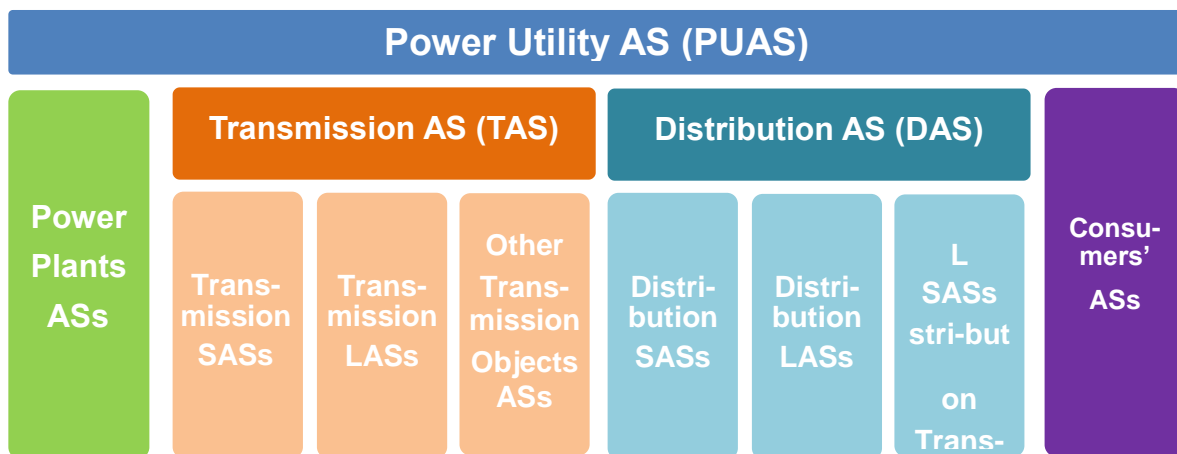


Figure 1 – LAS as a part of PUAS

The second section of the paper deals with LAS as one of the elements of Transmission or Distribution SCADA (T(D) SCADA)), it describes a general characteristic of LAS sensors through the example of OPL. The third section of the paper formulates basic requirements for LAS construction, their functionality, and presents the positive results from its implementation. The fourth section is devoted to forecasting the prospects for LAS implementation on power lines. The conclusion is presented in the fifth section of the article.

II. LAS in T(D) SCADA

The transmission and distribution processes of electric energy are quite complex. They are described with a large number of variables. To control these processes multilevel hierarchical systems which are characterized by the ability of orientation on several targets and can solve conflicts between the elements that make decisions through the intervention of an element of a higher level are used [17]. Taking into account basic properties of Smart Grid, such as self-regulation and self-healing, this system should be at least automated, and eventually most of its functions will be automatic. Fig. 2 shows T(D) SCADA which included LAS.

In general case, elements of OPL and the equipment which is installed on it are LAS monitoring and controlling objects.

The first level of T (D) SCADA is a local level formed with sublevels, that correspond to AS levels of power grid individual objects – power lines, substations and other facilities (for example distribution points). In Fig. 2 the names of AS levels of individual objects of electrical network and data buses correspond to those accepted in the standard IEC-61850 terminology.

At LAS process level various control devices and RTMS sensors are installed. They can be placed in

specific monitoring and control points on the line – MCP1 ... MCPi or implemented on a basis of distributed monitoring technology [18].

RTMS sensors are divided into two groups:

1. Environmental sensors. Since environmental factors (which have natural and artificial character) impact OPL, its monitoring, primarily in order to predict development of the situation and take the necessary measures to prevent failures of the line, is one of the features performed by sensors of this group even today. Some measures can be introduced immediately, automatically, which corresponds to the notion of OPL self-regulation or "adaptation". For example, OPLs which are placed in climatic areas with high level of ice loads in case of prediction of the possibility of ice sediments on wires based on data received from meteorological sensors (factor of natural origin) may automatically transfer into anti-ice regime through some switching [12, 19, 20]. The rest of the measures can be introduced with operational personnel actions, with some time lag. In this case RTMS sensors act as an OPL inspection tool. For example, in [21] there is prediction of the development of technologies which provide the possibility of monitoring on critical approach of vegetation (factor of natural origin), building constructions (artificial factor) to the elements of the line. Here, RTMS sensors act as an inspection tool which lets to introduce the necessary measures in manual mode for preventing OPL failure. On the other hand, OPL impact the environment. Therefore, another feature that can provide sensors of this group is to monitor the impact on the environment. For example, it is possible to monitor the electromagnetic influences near the line, acoustic noise and radio interference generated by corona discharge.

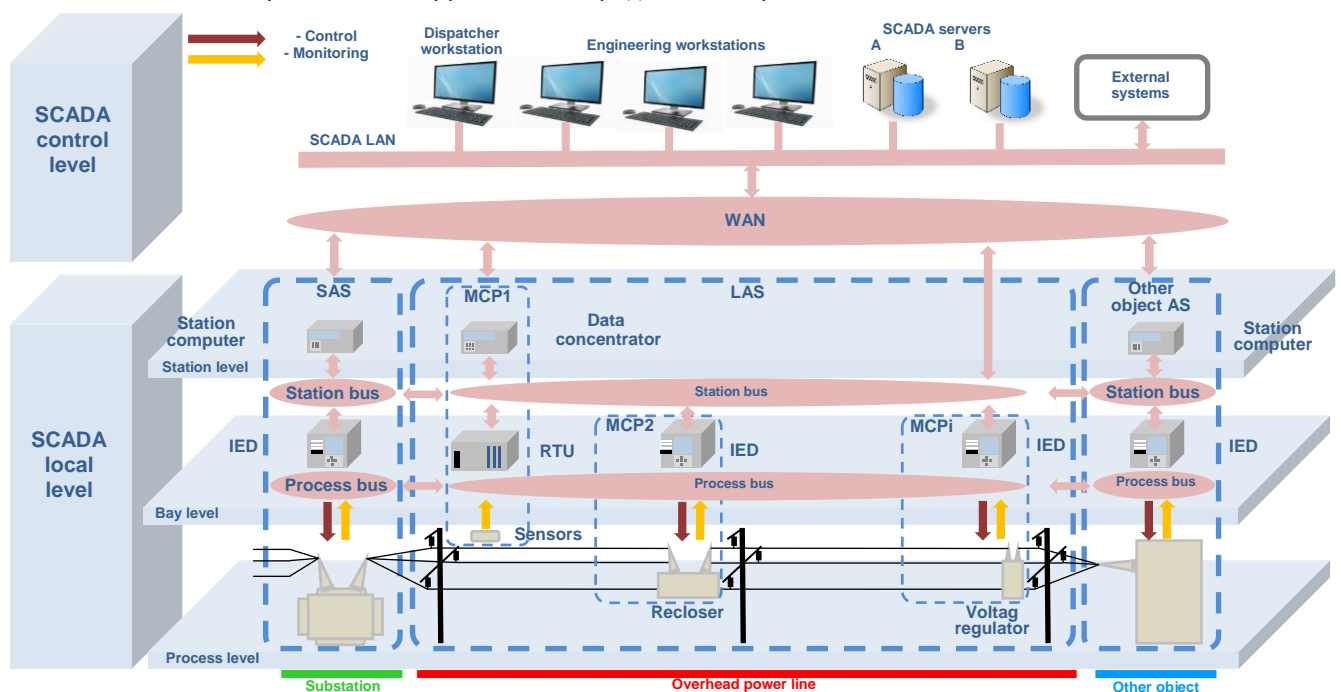


Fig. 2 – LAS in T(D) SCADA

2. OPL elements state sensors. In general, sensors of this group will provide monitoring of electrical, thermal, mechanical and other processes in the elements of the line influencing OPL key features. RTMS equipped with sensors that monitor the current in the phase wires, their temperature, fluctuations intensity [22], sag [23], mechanical efforts [24], are actively used on OPL even today.

The control devices of LAS process level provide "adjustment" of the line to changing conditions. In particular, switching devices, that provide a transfer of the line into preventive mode heating wires in the case of ice forecast [12], can be attributed to such devices.

Microprocessor devices are placed at LAS's bay level; these are programmable logic controllers (PLCs), the input/output modules (RTUs) and other intelligent electronic devices (IEDs) which provide data collection from RTMS sensors and issue of control signals to control devices in particular monitoring and control points MCP1 ... MCPi. In terms of information environment architecture in LAS the term "monitoring and control point" is similar to the concept of "bay" in SAS.

The equipment installed at the process and bay levels is associated with common information environment – LAS process bus. Bay level IEDs obtain the information about contact position of switching devices that are installed on the line (reclosers, disconnectors), and about the process parameters at different points of the line through process bus. For example real-time voltage regulation with linear regulators [7] based on the data of the voltage value at various points of the line can be a specific function for distribution lines, the implementation of which is possible through data exchange via LAS process bus.

At LAS's station level data concentrators can be used. The data concentrator provide the information gathering from several points of the monitoring and control, their

intermediate archiving and transmitting to higher levels of the hierarchy. In addition, the concentrators allow transmitting the data in the opposite direction. LAS characteristic is the absence of a classical station level, which can be used in SAS and is a collection of workstations (WSs), data collection servers that are PCs. It should be noted that such a situation is typical in SAS, where service personnel is absent.

Bay level IEDs and data concentrators that can be used at the station level, are united through information LAS station bus. The exchange of data between IEDs will be implemented through the station bus. It allows implementing new functions on the line, for example new algorithms of relay protection and automation.

Direct data exchange between LAS and AS of other objects of the electric network can occur through both the process bus and the station bus.

OPL monitoring data, as well as data describing the state of other objects of electric network, by means of communication (WAN) is transferred to the second level of T(D) SCADA – control level. The latter is a control point, where a server or servers of data collection, dispatcher's and other WSs are placed. In addition, at this level a part of control signals is generated and transmitted to the control devices which are installed on OPL. Data exchange with external automated systems is organized at the control level.

III. Requirements for building LAS and its functional capabilities

Based on the analysis of modern automation systems which are used in electric power systems [11, 25, 26] the following basic requirements for LAS were formulated:

1. Modular principle of construction.
2. Openness and possibility of extending of the system based on the international standards relating to hardware and software tools, models of information exchange.

3. The possibility of synergies with other automated systems, e. g. SASs, Other Objects ASs, integrated T(D) SCADA.

4. Optimized level of decentralization, which provide relative functional independence of its elements with simultaneous commercial availability.

Table 1 through the example of an overhead power line shows the list of possible LAS modules, their main functions and some obtained positive results. In addition, the last column of the table shows links to the sources containing information about the developments and technologies on which these functions can be achieved.

LAS division into functional modules is made from the standpoints of system users – staff from different services (operational dispatch service, maintenance personnel, specialists in electricity sales, etc.). Therefore, the table does not reflect the list of automatic functions that do not require human intervention (protection, automatics and so on). Modules division on submodules is possible, each providing a specific functions. At the user level functional modules and submodules of LAS usually should be implemented as specialized software elements of automated control systems (operational and strategic) of electricity transmission (distribution) placed on WSs of different services. Since OPL being objects with elongated nature, software is typically based on GIS-technologies.

IV. Prospects for LASs introduction on power lines

LASs implementation on power lines should take place with considering of all the traditional groups of functions that are specific to AS of other power facilities. First of all, they include relay protection, automation of certain processes (voltage control, reactive power regulating, etc.), real-time monitoring and remote control.

The basis for LASs implementation is organizing an information environment for data exchange between system elements. As known, attractive platform for

information exchange in automation systems of electric power objects is standard IEC-61850. This standard was originally developed to provide information exchange between elements in SAS. The standard began gradually to be applied to automation systems of other power facilities, including distributed generation sources (DER) [50], hydroelectric power plants [51]. There is a draft of a standard adapted for using in Feeder Automation Systems (FASs) [52]. FAS can be considered as a particular case of LAS. Thus, the concept of information exchange adopted in IEC-61850, apparently can be regarded as the basis for implementing data exchange between elements of LAS. Since the notion of a logical node is basic in IEC-61850, one of the tasks to be solved is the decomposition of LAS elements functions into logical nodes.

The questions of ICT use in LASs include such issues as the choice of information network optimal topology, methods to ensure reliable data transfer and physical environment, technologies and communication protocols. Obviously, communication technologies that can become widespread in LASs, are technologies based on using optical fiber, PLC, and also wireless transfer of data.

Another key area for LASs implementation is to develop new concepts of relay protection and automatics algorithms on power lines through the application of high-speed data exchange technologies between IEDs, which are installed at various points of the line, such as technology based on GOOSE-messages defined in IEC-61850. Such decisions have started to be developed and implemented [53].

Technology of OPL distributed monitoring based on fiber optic sensors, which allows watching some line parameters (such as wires or cables temperature) throughout its length [18] is perspective. Optical fiber in some cases can be further used as the physical environment for data transmission. OPL monitoring and diagnostics questions are reflected in [54].

Table 1 – LAS functional modules description (through the example of OPL)

	The main functions of the module	Benefits	Information about technologies
1	OPL supervisory control module		
	1. Monitoring and support of decision making in normal and subnormal OPL modes	Increasing of OPL capacity, preventing of failures related with sag violation, exceeding the permissible wires' temperature, improving of power quality, reducing power losses, reducing time for searching damages on the line, interruption of power supplying and related with it loses	[4], [9], [10], [22]–[24], [27]–[32]
		Improving OPL reliability in conditions of high weather loads	[2], [12], [33]–[39]
	2. Monitoring and support of decision making in conditions of high weather loads	Reducing the financial costs for salaries of operating personnel, improving electrical safety, reducing the time	[25], [30]

	3. Remote control of switching devices, remote configuration of microprocessor protective relays and other IEDs 4. Automatic logging of events associated with OPL	required for control of switching devices installed on the line and IEDs configuration Reducing the time spent on record keeping	[30]
2	Module of OPL maintenance		
	1. Monitoring, remote diagnosis and OPL's elements resource assessment (insulators, wires, poles, connecting clamps, etc.) and the equipment installed on it (reclosers, linear voltage regulators, etc.) 2. Remote estimation of weather conditions at the site of repairs at OPL 3. Automated scheduling of OPL repairs (the timing of repairs, calculation of necessary materials, etc.) 4. Automated processing of OPL passport, inspection reports and other documents related to OPL	Reducing the number of OPL and the equipment failures Improving the quality of repairs, reducing of power supply interruptions related to the repairs on OPL Reducing the time spent on planning repairs Reducing the time spent on record keeping	[21], [39]–[42] [33] [43] [43]
3	Electricity sales module		
	1. Commercial accounting of electricity which is sold to consumers that are connected to OPL 2. Power quality and power supply reliability recording (SAIDI, SAIFI) 3. Automated billing	Reducing the time required to information gathering about electricity sales, power quality and power supply reliability indicators, billing	[44], [45]
4	Module of strategic management of transmission (distribution) of electric power through OPL		
	1. Archiving of the data (transients' parameters, OPL automatic systems, operational control, OPL maintenance, electricity accounting), analysis and development of recommendations 2. Gathering statistical data on climate loads on OPL, their specification	Improving the efficiency of automatic systems, operational control, maintenance, reduction of energy losses in power line Improving the reliability of OPL	[43], [46]–[48] [34]
5	Module of information security and interoperability		
	1. Communicating with related automated systems 2. Protection against unauthorized access	Improving the operational and strategic management of electricity transmission (distribution) through OPL Preventing accidents, terrorism	[49] [49]

V. Conclusion

The prospects for the increasing use of automation on power lines condition the need to unite individual elements of automation associated with a particular line into one integrated line automation system – LAS. This allows us to consider LAS as a separate element of power system automation and at the same time as a component of the future Smart Grid.

LASs implementation should be based on principles of modularity, openness and scalability, as well as possibility of their integration into complex transmission (distribution) SCADA. LAS custom's modules and submodules usually should be implemented as specialized software components, and sometimes as separate applications.

The key factor of LASs realization is implementation of ICT infrastructure based on high-speed data exchange technology and common standards. This will allow making a significant step in improving the principles of

relay protection, automatics, and algorithms of controlled devices which are used on power lines.

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Oleksandr Savchenko, Oleksandr Miroshnyk, Irina Trunova,
Anatoliy Sereta
Kharkiv Petro Vasylenko National Technical University of
Agriculture, Ukraine

Oleksiy Iegorov
O.M. Beketov National University of Urban Economy in
Kharkiv, Ukraine

The article represents the authors' vision on the prospects of development of automation tools, which are used on power lines. Currently available automation elements of power lines such as various monitoring systems, control devices are overviewed. It is noted about the need for integration of such elements installed on certain power line into one system. It gives the reason for introducing the concept of Line Automation System (LAS), which can be considered as one of the elements of electric power system automation and also as a component of the future Smart Grid. Some scientific studies call lines equipped with such systems as Smart Power Lines. The structural scheme of LAS is proposed and the groups of LAS sensors are described. The general requirements for LASs and their functionalities were formulated. LASs implementing prospects and their key technologies are discussed.

Keywords – Line Automation System (LAS), power line control, power line monitoring, Smart Power Line.

Автоматизація ліній електропередачі на базі SMART GRID технологій

О.А. Савченко, О.О. Мірошник,
І.М. Трунова, А.І. Серета
Харківський національний технічний університет
сільського господарства імені Петра Василенка, Україна

О.Б. Єгоров
Харківський національний університет міського
господарства імені О.М. Бекетова, Україна

Стаття відображає бачення авторів стосовно перспектив розвитку засобів автоматизації, які використовуються на лініях електропередавання. Проведено короткий огляд існуючих елементів автоматизації ліній електропередавання – систем моніторингу різноманітних процесів, виконавчих пристроїв. Звернено увагу на необхідність їх інтеграції в окремі комплекси програмно-технічних засобів, що дає підстави для введення поняття системи автоматизації лінії електропередавання, яку можна вважати одним з елементів автоматизації електроенергетичної системи і одночасно компонентом «розумних» мереж (Smart Grid) майбутнього. В деяких наукових роботах лінії, обладнані такими системами, називають «розумними» лініями електропередавання (Smart Power Lines). В статті розглянуто структурну схему LAS як окремого компонента, охарактеризовано групи датчиків системи моніторингу лінії та описано їх загальне призначення. Сформульовано загальні вимоги до побудови LASs, їх функціональних можливостей. Спрогнозовано перспективи впровадження LASs та їх ключових технологій.

Ключові слова: електропередавання; саморегулювання; самовідновлення; Smart Grid; регулятор.