

Invertek Optidrive E3 Variable Frequency Drives (VFDs)

Figure: Invertek Optidrive E3 family of general-purpose VFDs in various sizes and enclosure types.

Overview of the Optidrive E3 Series

The **Invertek Optidrive E3** is a line of compact, general-purpose AC variable frequency drives designed for reliable motor control and energy efficiency. This series supports input supplies from **110 V up to 480 V**, in single-phase or three-phase configurations, and covers motor power ratings roughly from **0.37 kW to 37 kW** (0.5 to 50 HP) ¹ ². Each Optidrive E3 outputs a three-phase, adjustable frequency to the motor, allowing precise speed control of standard AC motors. Simply **powering on the drive with its factory defaults can immediately run a motor with accurate control and energy savings**, thanks to built-in intelligent control algorithms ³. The E3 is part of Invertek's general-purpose VFD range, suitable for a broad spectrum of applications where simplicity, space-saving design, and robust performance are desired. It has been engineered to **maximize ease-of-use while integrating advanced motor control features**, making it accessible to both novices and experienced engineers.

From an installation standpoint, the Optidrive E3 is available in multiple form factors and environmental ratings. Users can choose between standard **IP20-rated units for panel mounting** or fully sealed **IP66/NEMA 4X units for direct machine-mount or outdoor use**, the latter being dust-tight and washdown-ready for harsh conditions ⁴ ⁵. All models are built to international standards – they carry **CE marking for the EU, UL listing for North America**, and other certifications (RCM, EAC, etc.), indicating compliance with safety and EMC regulations ⁶ ⁷. An internal EMI/RFI filter is included in every drive to meet **EN 61800-3 Category C1** EMC requirements (suitable for residential/commercial environments with stringent emissions limits) ⁸. In short, the Optidrive E3 series provides a **versatile and globally compliant solution** for variable speed motor control, combining plug-and-play simplicity with the flexibility to tackle more demanding control tasks when needed ⁹ ¹⁰.

Key Features and Capabilities

The Optidrive E3 packs a number of **features typically found in higher-end drives** into a user-friendly package. Notable capabilities and design features include:

- **Wide Motor Compatibility:** The E3 employs advanced **sensorless vector control** algorithms that allow it to run **various motor types** without feedback sensors. It supports standard three-phase induction motors as well as high-efficiency motor designs – including permanent magnet (PM) synchronous motors, brushless DC motors, and even emerging synchronous reluctance (SynRM) motors – all in open-loop mode ¹¹. This means a single Optidrive E3 can precisely control IE2, IE3, IE4, or IE5-class motors, delivering high starting torque and steady speed regulation without

needing an encoder or other external transducers. (For example, **sensorless vector control** is widely used in modern drives like ABB's ACS series to maintain tight speed/torque control; it eliminates the need for a physical tachometer by estimating motor conditions in real time ¹².) Additionally, the drive supports simpler **volts-per-hertz (V/Hz)** control and even an **energy-optimized V/Hz mode** for applications that prefer a basic control method ¹³ ¹⁴. This flexibility in control modes ensures the E3 can be tuned for optimal performance whether the priority is high torque, accuracy, or maximum efficiency.

- **Integrated Energy Savings and EMC Features:** Every Optidrive E3 includes an **internal EMC filter (Category C1)** to attenuate electrical noise, which saves cost and effort since no external filter is needed to meet most emissions standards ⁸. The drive's high efficiency power stage (using modern IGBT PWM switching) achieves a typical efficiency of **98% or more** under full load ¹⁵, minimizing losses. It also has an internal **sleep/standby function** and PID controller (referred to as **internal PI control**) that can automatically reduce motor speed or stop the motor when a target condition is reached (for instance, pausing a pump when a set pressure is met) ¹⁶ ¹⁷. These features help avoid wasted energy during low-demand periods. In HVAC fan applications, the E3's dedicated **"Fire Mode"** can override certain trip conditions and run the motor at a fixed emergency speed for smoke extraction or pressurization, reflecting compliance with fire safety strategies in building systems ¹⁶. Overall, by dynamically adjusting motor speed to match process needs, VFDs like the Optidrive E3 routinely save substantial energy compared to traditional fixed-speed or damper/throttle controls. In fact, case studies have shown energy reductions on the order of **30–60%** in real-world implementations when upgrading to VFD control ¹⁸ ¹⁹.

- **Built-in Braking and Safe Stop:** Optidrive E3 drives (frame size 2 and above) come with an **internal brake chopper transistor** as standard ²⁰. This hardware allows an external braking resistor to be easily connected for applications that require quick deceleration or handle regenerative loads (such as lowering hoists or rapidly stopping high-inertia machines). The internal brake chopper safely dissipates excess energy in the resistor, enabling **improved braking torque** and preventing overvoltage trips during deceleration. By including this feature in the drive, Invertek ensures the E3 can **handle high-demand stop scenarios** without requiring a more expensive drive or additional external modules (many competitive general-purpose drives also offer built-in brake transistors on certain sizes as a convenience, underscoring that the E3 meets industry expectations for safety and performance). For basic safety integration, the E3 can be wired with a **"freeze" or coast stop input**, and an optional **Safe Torque Off (STO)** function is available via accessory on some models – allowing the drive's output to be disabled in a safety circuit without completely removing power (meeting requirements for controlled stop in machinery safety standards).

- **Flexible Input/Output and Connectivity:** Despite its compact size, the E3 has a generous array of I/O for control and monitoring. It includes **four programmable inputs** (two fixed digital inputs and two that can be configured as either analog or digital) ²¹ ²². The analog inputs accept signals like 0–10 V, 4–20 mA, etc., allowing interface with sensors (transducers, potentiometers) for remote speed references or feedback. On the output side, the drive provides **one analog output** (0–10 V for signal feedback, e.g. proportional to speed or load) and **one programmable relay output** for status indications or fault/alarm signaling ²³. A built-in +24 VDC low-power supply is available to feed external sensors or switches, and a +10 V reference is provided for potentiometers, simplifying wiring of control stations ²⁴ ²⁵. For communications, the Optidrive E3 has **industry-standard Modbus RTU and CANopen protocols on board** (accessible via RJ45 or terminal connections) ²⁶.

This means it can be networked with PLCs, HMIs or other devices for supervisory control and data acquisition without any add-ons. If higher-level industrial networks are required, Invertek offers plug-in options like an **EtherNet/IP module** for integration into Ethernet-based PLC systems ²⁶ ²⁷. The availability of multiple control interfaces ensures the E3 can either function as a **standalone controller** (using its on-board PI loop and I/O) or fit into complex automated systems via fieldbus communication.

- **Rugged Design for Industrial Environments:** The Optidrive E3 is built to handle the demands of industrial operation. It is rated for full performance in ambient temperatures up to **50 °C (122 °F)** without derating ²⁸ ²⁹, thanks to effective thermal design and component selection. The drive can also tolerate a wide supply voltage fluctuation ($\pm 10\%$ of nominal) and is designed for up to 1000 m elevation as standard (higher altitudes up to 4000 m are possible with modest derating) ¹ ³⁰. Conformal coating on the electronics provides protection against dust and humidity, and the IP66 models feature a **tough polycarbonate housing with coated heatsink** to withstand water, corrosive agents, and UV exposure ⁵ ³¹. These outdoor-rated units are ideal for washdown areas or remote installations – for example, directly mounting next to pumps or fans in the field. They even offer **“switched” IP66 variants** that come with built-in operator controls: an isolator disconnect switch, a local speed potentiometer, and forward-off-reverse selector are mounted on the drive enclosure ³². This allows immediate local control of the motor without needing a separate panel, which can be extremely convenient for simple installations. All E3 drives use robust screw-clamp terminals (with rising clamp design) for secure wiring, and they include features like a **fast-charge DC bus capacitor circuit** (to limit inrush current) and **coated PCBs** for longevity ³³ ³⁴. The result is a VFD platform that can **endure tough operating conditions** while maintaining reliable performance over time.

- **Ease of Commissioning and Operation:** A standout feature of the Optidrive E3 is its **user-friendly setup**. Invertek engineered the interface to simplify life for installers and operators. Only **14 basic parameters** cover the essential configuration needed for most common applications ³⁵. Out-of-the-box, the default settings are tuned to get a typical motor up and running immediately – as Invertek says, “simply power on and Optidrive E3 is up and running” with no complex tuning required ³. For many standard motors and loads, the factory parameters provide good performance and energy savings by default. If adjustment is needed, the built-in keypad and LED display on the front of the drive offer an **intuitive menu** to navigate parameters and commands. The keypad allows precise digital control of speed/start/stop, and it can display useful readouts like frequency, current, or diagnostic codes ³⁶ ³⁷. The drive also supports **rapid cloning of settings**: using the optional **Optistick Smart** device (a tiny Bluetooth and NFC-enabled programming key), users can copy parameters from one drive and upload them to others in seconds ³⁸ ³⁹. This is extremely handy when deploying multiple drives with the same configuration or maintaining spares. Additionally, the Optistick and Invertek’s **OptiTools Studio/Mobile** software enable **Bluetooth wireless programming and monitoring** of the E3 via a PC or smartphone app ⁴⁰ ⁴¹. Technicians can commission or adjust the drive without physical contact, even when it’s in a hard-to-reach location. Overall, the combination of a **minimal parameter set, application-specific macros, and modern tools for configuration** means that installing and tuning an Optidrive E3 can be accomplished in a fraction of the time compared to many other drives. This focus on usability is a key advantage noted by customers – one project engineer cited the **E3’s quick setup (just 14 parameters) and easy commissioning** as a major benefit over other VFDs in a large building installation ⁹ ¹⁰.

- **Application Macros for Quick Optimization:** To further streamline setup, the E3 firmware includes **pre-defined application macros** that tailor the drive's behavior to certain usage scenarios at the touch of a button ⁴². Users can select between **Industrial, Pump, or Fan mode** macros. In **Industrial Mode**, the drive is optimized for general-purpose loads (constant torque characteristics) such as conveyors, mixers, machine spindles, or even exercise equipment like treadmills ⁴³ ⁴⁴. This mode enables features like high breakaway torque and **flying start** (catching a spinning motor), and it provides quick acceleration with robust slip compensation. In **Pump Mode**, the E3 applies a variable-torque V/Hz profile ideal for centrifugal pumps, and unlocks dedicated features like **automatic sleep/wake** (to stop the pump at zero flow and restart on demand) and pipe fill control. Pump Mode can dramatically improve efficiency in flow control systems by matching pump speed to demand, and it simplifies setting up multiple pumps in parallel (e.g. **Optiflow multi-pump control**) if each pump is on its own drive ⁴⁵ ¹⁷. Finally, **Fan Mode** optimizes the drive for HVAC fan applications: it includes an extended **fire override mode**, handles both constant and variable torque fans, and makes it easy to interface with thermostats or building management systems for airflow control ⁴⁶ ⁴⁷. Fan Mode is commonly used for ventilation fans, exhaust fans, make-up air units, etc., where running at partial speeds yields large energy savings. These macros essentially configure dozens of settings (acceleration profiles, torque limits, control loops, fault responses) in one step, ensuring that **each E3 can be quickly tuned to its application's needs** without requiring expert knowledge of every parameter.

Technical Specifications

In terms of specifications, the Optidrive E3 series covers a broad range of ratings while maintaining consistent performance characteristics. Below is a summary of key technical specifications and capabilities:

- **Power and Voltage Ratings:** Models are available for **110–115 V AC** single-phase input (for smaller motors) and **200–240 V AC** input (single or three-phase), as well as **380–480 V AC three-phase** input for larger motors ¹. The drives produce a three-phase output to the motor in all cases. Motor output power ranges from **0.37 kW (0.5 HP)** up to **37 kW (50 HP)** depending on model and supply voltage ². (For example, a 230 V single-phase supplied unit can power up to about a 4 kW motor, whereas a 480 V three-phase unit can handle 22–37 kW motors, aligning with the drive's frame size limits.) All units accept **48–62 Hz** input line frequency and can tolerate $\pm 10\%$ voltage variation, allowing use in areas with unstable grids or generator power ¹. The internal DC bus is pre-charged via built-in inrush current limiting, so starting the drive won't spike the supply.
- **Output and Control Performance:** The output frequency is fully adjustable from **0 to 500 Hz** with a resolution of 0.1 Hz ⁴⁸, enabling support for both standard 50/60 Hz motors and high-speed applications. Frequency (speed) can be set via keypad, analog signal, or network command. The drive's control method can be switched between **volts-per-hertz** (with either linear or quadratic V/F patterns) and **sensorless vector** mode for higher performance ¹³ ¹². In vector mode, the speed regulation is typically within a few percent of setpoint even under fluctuating load, and up to **200% torque at low speeds** can be achieved for short durations (making it suitable for heavy starting loads). The E3's **dynamic response** is also noteworthy – it features a high PWM switching frequency (adjustable effective **4–32 kHz** PWM to reduce motor noise) ¹⁴ and fast input/output update rates (digital inputs response <4 ms) ⁴⁹, which means it can react quickly to command changes or disturbances. The drive supports an **overload capacity of 150% for 60 seconds (and up to 175% for 2.5 seconds)** ⁵⁰, allowing it to handle heavy startup torque or momentary load spikes without

tripping. This overload rating is typical of heavy-duty VFDs and ensures robustness for demanding applications (such as crushers or positive displacement pumps). If even higher overload or torque control precision is required, users might consider Invertek's high-performance P2 series, but for most general applications the E3's capabilities are ample.

- **Efficiency and Thermal Management:** The Optidrive E3 is very efficient in converting AC to adjustable frequency power – **efficiency is above 98%** at full load ¹⁵. This means only a small fraction of input power is lost as heat, which helps minimize the need for cooling and saves energy. The drive is rated for continuous operation in ambient temperatures from **-20 °C to +50 °C** without output derating ³⁴. It can even tolerate up to +60 °C with reduced current or additional cooling, and can be stored in temperatures down to -40 °C safely. For installations at high altitude, it's specified for up to **1000 m (3300 ft)** with no derating; above that altitude the thinner air provides less cooling, so a derating factor is applied (up to a max altitude of 4000 m is allowed with derate, in line with IEC guidelines) ³⁰. The drive's cooling design includes smart fan control – the internal fan runs only when needed, reducing noise and dust ingress. **Vibration and shock resistance** comply with IEC 61800-5-1 requirements ⁵¹, and the unit's mean time between failures (MTBF) is high due to the use of long-life capacitors and careful component selection. All these specs reflect a drive that is **built for longevity and reliability** even in continuous industrial duty.
- **Controls and Interface:** The E3 comes with an integrated keypad and **7-segment LED display** for local control ⁵². The default display shows output frequency or motor speed, but it can be toggled to show current, voltage, or other metered values. **Parameter programming** can be done via this keypad or through software using the OptiTools PC application (via a USB or Bluetooth interface). The drive's firmware stores the last **4 fault trips in memory with timestamps** ⁵³, aiding in troubleshooting by letting users review recent fault history. It also logs running data for diagnostics, such as peak output current, DC bus voltage levels, and total run hours ⁵³. On the control terminals, besides the I/O mentioned earlier, there is a +24 V output that can supply up to 100 mA for external use ²⁴. The two analog inputs can each be configured for voltage or current modes (0–10 V, 4–20 mA, etc., with 12-bit resolution) ²¹, and their scaling can be adjusted via parameters to match sensor ranges. The single analog output (0–10 V) can be programmed to represent a variety of values (frequency, torque, PID feedback, etc.), enabling easy monitoring by external systems or meters ²³. The relay output is form C (changeover contact) and rated for up to 250 VAC, 6 A, which is useful for driving an external alarm, indicator lamp, or even directly energizing a small auxiliary device when the drive is running or faulted ⁵⁴. For communications, **Modbus RTU** is available over an RS-485 serial link (9600–115200 baud) and **CANopen** is available at 125 kbps to 1 Mbps, both built-in ²⁶. Optional plug-in cards provide **EtherNet/IP** and other fieldbus connectivity if needed, expanding the integration capabilities. This range of I/O and interface options means the Optidrive E3 can serve as a **central controller for simple systems** or seamlessly **integrate into complex automation architectures**.
- **Mechanical and Enclosure Details:** Physically, the Optidrive E3 is designed to be as compact as possible for a given power rating. Frame sizes 1 through 5 cover the series (smallest for sub-1 kW drives, up to largest for 37 kW). For example, a size 1 unit (up to ~0.75 kW on 110 V or ~2.2 kW on 230 V) measures about 173 mm tall, 83 mm wide, 123 mm deep (6.8 x 3.3 x 4.8 inches) and weighs only ~1 kg ⁵⁵. The largest size 5 unit (37 kW) is still quite slim and can fit into tight control panels. All IP20 models are built for **panel mounting**, either using screws (keyhole slots are provided for easy hanging) or DIN-rail clips for the smaller sizes ⁵⁶. Power wiring on IP20 drives is connected at the

top (line supply) and bottom (motor leads) to facilitate neat cabinet layouts ⁵⁷ . In IP66 versions, cable entry glands are used; the IP66 enclosure has a flat front with a removable gland plate and even includes mounting points for adding external switches or pilot lights if desired ⁵⁸ ⁵⁹ . The **IP66 models** are available up to 22 kW (30 HP) and come in both “**non-switched**” and “**switched**” variants as mentioned (with or without the integrated disconnect and controls) ⁶⁰ ³² . This gives users the flexibility to choose a fully standalone drive for field use or a simpler version if the drive will be in an enclosure but still needs the higher IP rating for dust/moisture. The **color-coded labeling and quick-start guide** on the drive help identify connections and basic parameter settings at a glance (there’s an integrated **quick-reference card** under the front cover for the IP20 units) ⁶¹ . In summary, the E3’s mechanical design emphasizes **space efficiency, straightforward installation, and adaptability to different mounting needs**.

Applications and Real-World Performance

One of the strengths of the Optidrive E3 is its broad applicability across industries and use cases. It truly is a general-purpose drive, and Invertek highlights its deployment in sectors ranging from **manufacturing and material handling to agriculture, commercial buildings, and marine systems** ⁶² ⁶³ . Anywhere there is an electric motor driving a load, an Optidrive E3 can likely be used to provide better control and efficiency. The drive’s feature set and modes make it suitable for **both variable-torque loads** (like fans, blowers, and centrifugal pumps where torque demand drops at lower speeds) and **constant-torque loads** (like conveyors, positive displacement pumps, compressors, and mixers). Some common application examples include:

- **Pumps and Fluid Control:** The E3 excels at pump control in irrigation systems, building services (water supply or booster pumps), and industrial fluid handling. In pump applications, using the drive to vary pump speed according to demand can yield dramatic energy savings and improved process control. For instance, in a municipal water pumping station case study, retrofitting constant-speed pumps with VFDs (not specifically E3, but illustrating VFD benefits) led to an energy consumption reduction of about **30%** and a peak power demand reduction of **50%** ¹⁸ ⁶⁴ , by maintaining only the needed flow/pressure instead of running pumps flat-out. With Optidrive E3’s built-in PI controller, a transducer can be connected directly to regulate pressure or flow in a closed-loop, eliminating oscillations and keeping the output stable. A real-world example is the **KL Eco City** development in Malaysia, where **94 Optidrive E3 units** were installed to manage a high-rise building’s water distribution pumps ⁶⁵ ¹⁷ . By using VFDs with Invertek’s OptiFlow coordination, the system ensures constant water pressure to all 60 floors while only running the number of pumps needed at any given time. During off-peak periods, some pumps automatically idle, cutting energy usage and reducing wear on equipment. This **variable pumping strategy** not only saved energy but also reduced water hammer and mechanical stress, leading to lower maintenance costs for the building’s facilities ¹⁷ ⁶⁶ . The ease of commissioning the drives (just a few minutes per drive to set the macro and motor data) was cited as a key factor in getting the system up and running quickly ⁹ . The Optidrive E3’s pump-friendly features like sleep mode and underload detection (to sense dry-run conditions) provide robust protection and efficiency in these scenarios.
- **HVAC and Fans:** Another prime application area is **fans and blowers** for heating, ventilation, and cooling. The Optidrive E3 in Fan Mode can serve in rooftop HVAC units, large building ventilation systems, tunnel exhaust fans, greenhouse circulation fans, and more. By replacing traditional outlet dampers or inlet vanes with speed control, enormous efficiency gains can be realized due to the fan

affinity laws (power drawn by a fan drops roughly with the cube of speed reduction). A striking example comes from a **ceramics factory in Brazil**: the facility had an array of seven drying fans with dampers that were running constantly at full speed, wasting energy and causing uneven drying ⁶⁷. After retrofitting the system with Optidrive E3 (IP66 units for the high-dust, high-heat environment) and an Optidrive Eco for a group of fans, the energy consumption for that process step fell from **19,423 kWh to 7,789 kWh**, roughly a **60% reduction in energy use** ⁶⁸. This was achieved by modulating the fan speeds to maintain the required temperature, rather than choking flow with dampers ⁶⁹ ¹⁹. In addition to the energy savings, the improved control resulted in more consistent product quality (the tiles were dried more uniformly) and reduced mechanical stress on the fans. In agricultural buildings (like poultry barns or greenhouses), using the E3 to adjust ventilation fans based on temperature or humidity can similarly improve conditions while cutting electricity costs – Invertek case studies report significant improvements in animal welfare and energy efficiency by upgrading to VFD-controlled fan systems ⁷⁰ ⁷¹. The Optidrive E3's ability to handle **fire-mode operation** and **high ambient temperatures** also make it well-suited for critical ventilation systems (e.g. parking garage exhaust fans that must run during fire events). The drive can run at a fixed high speed during an emergency override and is built to continue operating in demanding conditions, which is essential for safety-critical fan applications.

- **Conveyors, Machinery and General Automation:** With its robust sensorless vector performance and fast torque response, the E3 is widely used in **factory automation** for machinery like conveyors, packaging lines, mixers, extruders, and machine tools. For conveyor systems, the drive's smooth acceleration and deceleration ramps prevent sudden jerks, protecting both the mechanical equipment and the products being conveyed. The **high starting torque** capability (even at low speeds) means the E3 can start heavily loaded conveyors or mixers without assistance, and the **brake resistor option** can bring them to a controlled stop if needed. In one packaging plant scenario, deploying Optidrive E3 units on several conveyor motors improved the throughput by enabling precise speed synchronization between conveyor sections, while also reducing the mechanical wear on gearboxes due to softer starts/stops (as noted qualitatively by maintenance staff). The **internal PLC-like functions** (logic functions, timers, comparators in the parameter set) allow the E3 to perform simple automation tasks on its own. For example, the drive can be programmed to respond to a sensor input by changing speed or to follow a preset speed profile — useful in applications like **treadmills or amusement rides** where the E3 is actually used to control motor speed in response to user input or a sequence. Another benefit in industrial settings is the **high input power factor (~0.98)** of the drive ⁷² ⁷³, which reduces reactive power draw and can lower utility costs or avoid power factor penalties compared to running motors across the line. The E3 has also been utilized in **marine applications** (like controlling winches and pumps on boats) because of its compact size and reliability; its conformal coating and robust design help in withstanding marine environments.

- **Single-Phase Motor Control:** Uniquely, Invertek offers a variant of the Optidrive E3 specifically for **single-phase motors**, such as PSC (permanent split capacitor) or shaded-pole motors commonly found in fans, pumps, and compressors that run on single-phase mains ⁷⁴. Standard VFDs typically only work with three-phase motors, but the **Optidrive E3 Single Phase** model can drive single-phase induction motors up to around 1.1 kW by providing a dynamically controlled output and replacing the motor's capacitor phase-shift with electronic control. This opens up VFD benefits (speed control, soft start, etc.) to applications like HVAC blowers or pool pumps where only single-phase motors are available. The single-phase versions share many of the same features as the three-phase E3,

including the straightforward 14-parameter setup and internal PI control ⁷⁵ ⁷⁶ . This option is valuable in regions or facilities that do not have access to three-phase power – it allows significant **energy savings and process improvements on single-phase systems** that previously could not use variable speed control. For instance, a case study with a **large nursery (greenhouse)** in the UK employed hundreds of Optidrive E3 drives, some on single-phase fan motors, to implement soft-start and variable-speed ventilation. The result was a resolution of the nursery's power supply issues – the VFDs eliminated high startup currents that had been tripping breakers when all fans kicked on simultaneously ⁷⁷ ⁷⁸ . By ramping the fans up gradually and modulating their speed, the facility avoided costly electrical infrastructure upgrades and also reduced wear on the fan drive mechanisms. According to the nursery's report, the **power supply is now stable and the overall system runs more efficiently with noticeably lower energy bills** after installing around 380 Optidrive E3 units on their ventilation systems ⁷⁹ . Furthermore, the gentler starts provided by the drives have decreased strain on the gearboxes and rack-and-pinion vent mechanisms, likely **extending the lifespan of that equipment** ⁸⁰ . This example underscores how the E3 can solve real operational problems (like high inrush current and equipment stress) in addition to delivering energy savings.

Through these examples and use cases, a pattern emerges: the Optidrive E3 is a **problem-solving tool** for motor control. By applying its variable speed capabilities, users can **optimize processes, save energy, improve product quality, and reduce downtime** in many different settings. The drive's versatility – from handling heavy industrial loads to fine-tuning environmental conditions in agriculture – makes it a go-to choice for engineers looking to upgrade motor systems. And importantly, it achieves this while keeping things **simple for the user**, which is a distinguishing factor. As seen in the case studies, even large installations with dozens of drives benefited from the E3's quick commissioning and reliable operation out-of-the-box ⁹ ¹⁷ . Whether the goal is to **cut energy costs in a plant by retrofitting VFDs** (as evidenced by energy savings up to 60% in some projects ⁶⁸) or to **solve a specific issue like voltage drops, pressure fluctuations, or mechanical wear**, the Optidrive E3 provides a robust and straightforward solution.

Conclusion

The Invertek Optidrive E3 VFD series offers an exceptional combination of **user-friendly design, comprehensive features, and solid performance** that sets it apart in the general-purpose drive market. It embodies a balanced approach: on one hand, the E3 is extremely easy to set up and integrate – thanks to its minimal parameter set, application macros, and built-in connectivity – and on the other hand, it doesn't compromise on delivering advanced control techniques like sensorless vector motor control and intelligent energy-saving functions. This balance makes it equally appealing for an **automation expert looking for a capable drive** and for a **maintenance electrician who just needs to get a motor running efficiently**. The drive's **technical specifications** confirm its ability to meet a wide range of requirements, from input flexibility and power range to environmental endurance and compliance with international standards. Meanwhile, real-world applications and case studies have demonstrated tangible benefits such as dramatic energy savings, improved process control, enhanced equipment longevity, and quick ROI when deploying the E3 in place of outdated fixed-speed starters or less capable drives.

In summary, **Invertek's Optidrive E3** stands out as a powerful yet approachable VFD solution. It helps customers **solve practical motor control challenges** – whether that's reducing energy consumption in a pumping system, eliminating voltage spikes on motor start-up, or fine-tuning the speed of a production line for better quality – all while simplifying the experience of specifying and operating a variable frequency

drive. This combination of **simplicity, versatility, and efficiency** has made the Optidrive E3 a popular choice across industries worldwide for modernizing motor-driven systems and achieving better performance with lower operating costs.

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