Amalia van Solmsstraat 36, Drunen
Tilburg, 02-01-1981
06-82638391
rik@rikverstijnen.nl
nl.linkedin.com/in/rikverstijnen

Rik Verstijnen

Energy architect – From business case to Modbus interface



Personal profile

As an energy architect, I design energy systems as one whole. Grid congestion, EV charging, PV, energy storage and energy management: many pieces of the puzzle already exist, but a solution only works when they are properly integrated. That is the connection I make: between business and technology, in front of and behind the meter, between software and hardware, and between client and market. Over twenty years I have worked across the entire energy chain, from grid operator to installer. I see the big picture and know the technology down to the Modbus interface.

I am a pragmatic problem-solver with a long-term perspective who works from connection. I bring structure, and my ultimate goal is to make myself redundant. I spend my spare time with my three kids and playing (bass) trombone in various bands and orchestras. My house is a small energy lab, where I test what I advise my clients, from energy management to smart charging.

Added value

The whole chain
I have held roles at installers, grid operators, energy suppliers and their suppliers. I know what grid congestion really is and how to deal with it, and twenty years in the energy chain have given me a broad network.

Hands-on
I have developed software, commissioned DC fast chargers, installed home batteries, replaced meter cabinets and solved countless technical problems. I know the big picture as well as the details.

Agile mindset
Problem first, then Pareto: I first get to the bottom of what is really going on, then focus on the 20% that delivers 80% of the result. I like to accelerate: small steps, fast learning, adjusting where needed. Certified Scrum Master and SAFe Agilist.

Connector
Business and technology, in front of and behind the meter, software and hardware, client and market: I connect them into one working system, and make sure technicians and decision-makers understand each other.

Communicative
I do what I say and say what I do, and I keep the lines of communication open, also when things don't go as planned. I transfer knowledge so your team can carry on without me.

Structured
I apply the structure which suits the environment. Sometimes that will be Kanban or Scrum; in rare circumstances that will be project-based. Then I can use my experience as Prince2 Practitioner certified project manager.

Professional experience

2025 – present

Freelance energy architect & consultant – grid congestion, EV charging, energy storage & energy management

River Innovation Support

- For SolarComfort/SolarTek: General manager a.i. of an installation company with 18 years of history that, besides PV, specialises in solutions for grid congestion and backup power. Leading daily operations and preparing the company for its next phase. Projects include fast charging for 4 trucks at 240 kW on a largely used 130 kW grid connection (fast charger, 1 MWh battery, EMS), and a factory with peaks above 200 kW on a 47 kW connection plus 24/7 water treatment (ComAp EMS, 1 MWh battery, 300 kVA backup generator, 55 kWp PV), with capacity-limiting grid contracts (CBC) being implemented. My role: organising commissioning together with multiple suppliers.
- For Essent: Identifying the "energy asset chains" for monitoring and controlling home batteries, EV chargers, heat pumps and PV systems; defining a test and monitoring strategy for these chains
- For Docklab / TSGO foundation: Product manager since January 2026 for timestamped guarantees of origin (TSGO): applying 24/7 hourly matching to prove that renewable energy was generated at the moment of consumption, instead of the current monthly claim. Launching customer: KPN.

2023 - 2025

Head of Innovation & Technology

Xemex, Rosmalen / Antwerpen (B)

- Scale-up developing solutions for energy monitoring/management
- Responsible for managing the R&D and technical support teams (15 FTE); part of management team
- Responsible for strategic product/solution positioning and development; mainly residential energy management solution
- Shift from product (hardware/firmware) to end-to-end solution (including software platform and mobile apps) focus
- Responsible for IT: transformed to a fully cloud-based infrastructure; ISO 27001 certification achieved

2021 - 2023

Manager Innovation & Realization

Zelfstroom, 's-Hertogenbosch

- Solar scale-up with 250 employees; market leader in solar systems rental for B2C market in Netherlands
- Responsible for IT development and maintenance with a team of 10 direct reports
- Procurement and contract management for all software license and outsourcing contracts
- Responsible for technical and strategic vision behind rolling out product innovations like home batteries, energy management systems and EV chargers
- Joining the board of our shareholder in shaping and implementing their corporate venturing strategy on smart energy

2018 - 2020

Business development manager

Zelfstroom, 's-Hertogenbosch

- Solar scale-up with 40 employees when I started; market leader in solar systems rental for B2C market in Netherlands
- Extension of current propositions: the selection and integration of an new energy partner and development of a solar monitoring and energy insight app for customers.
- Scaling the company with process automations, such as ERP and telephony implementations and the implementation of a BI stack (data warehouse).

2016-2018

Product manager

Smart Society Services, Utrecht – Startup van Alliander

- Dynamic startup in a conservative environment, developing an IT/OT platform with services for DSO's, based on an open-source IoT communication platform
- Services include: smart street lighting, smart meter head-end and distribution automation
- Very broad role: product owner in scrum teams, but also supporting business development with workshops together with potential customers in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany

2015-2016

Senior consultant
Capgemini Nederland, Utrecht
- For Eneco Consumenten: Aligning internal processes for combined installation of Eneco Toon EMS and EV charger.
- For Eneco Zakelijk: Preparing the IT system landscape for offering "non-commodity" products and services; improving operational excellence of current processes.
- Trainer and initiator for an internal training program about the Dutch energy sector.
- For Engie: As subject matter expert involved in a program for decreasing the cost-to-serve.

2011-2015

Consultant
KeyStone Business Solutions, Woerden
- For Greenchoice: Functional design and business alignment for building a new back office system; focus on metering data and invoicing.
- For Itineris N.V. (B) at GDF Suez Energie Nederland: As functional consultant involved in the implementation of UMAX: energy market messaging; collection and validation of meter readings; calculation of energy consumption.
- For Itineris N.V. (B): Supporting the product management team of UMAX for adapting their product to the Dutch energy market model. Gathering requirements based on market documentation; discussing scope and requirements with customers; supporting the SCRUM development teams.
- For PTI: Product owner for several new services amongst which reading out smart meters. Discussing requirements with customers; functional design; implementation and testing.

2010-2011

Consultant
VCS Group, Loosdrecht
- For Endinet (currently Enexis): Supporting the asset management team by making risk analysis, improving processes and information management.
- For Stedin: Test engineer for a new release of Generis, the software which supports the allocation and reconcilication processes.

2009-2010

Technical Commercial Advisor
Mansveld Groep, Eindhoven
Setting up the renewable energy business for an installation company:
- Development and implementation of a vision and strategy for renewable energy; gathering knowledge about solar systems, battery systems, LED lighting, etc.
- Providing technical commercial advise to customers; developing a framework for the business case for investing in renewable energy solutions
- Board member of energy saving corporation "E.nu Zuidoost-Brabant"

2006-2009

Project manager
Mansveld Groep, Eindhoven
- Project manager for large or complex projects with many stakeholders, such as Heineken Experience Amsterdam (audio-visual services and show lighting), as part of an international project team and DMG Waalwijk headquarters (ICT, building automation and audio-visual services)
- Internal project manager for the implementation of a new ERP system, followed by an internal restructuring of the company.

2006

Trainee
Mansveld Groep, Eindhoven
Research on knowledge sharing in SME's

2005

Junior software designer industrial automation
Hoppenbrouwers Elektrotechniek, Udenhout

2003

Trainee software designer
Telezorg, Son

2002

Trainee software designer Mobile Network Operations
Sint Maarten Telephone Company, Philipsburg, St. Maarten

Training & education

2026	**VCA-VOL** *Arbocentrum / Het Certificaat*
2025	**Digitalization of Intelligent and Integrated Energy Systems** *TuDelft via EdX platform*
2019-2020	**Young Executive Professional compact** *De Baak Noordwijk*
2017	**Design thinking** *Design thinking center Amsterdam*
2017	**DSO Electrotechnical basics** *Alliander* 4-day course: grid design, grid calculations, grid switching practice in low-voltage/medium-voltage installations, safety and security
2016	**Professional Scrum Master I** *Scrum.org*
2015	**Leading SAFE – SAFE Agilist** *Scaled Agile*
2013 – 2014	**Energy MiniMBA** *Nyenrode Business Universiteit Breukelen*
2012	**Prince2 practitioner** *APMG*
2012	**Lean SixSigma Orange Belt** *UNC Plus Delta*
2010	**TMap Next foundation (testing methodologies)** *EXIN*
2003 – 2007	**Msc. Business administration** *Rotterdam School of Management / Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam* Master in Business Information Management
1999 – 2003	**Bachelor Electrotechnical engineering** *Fontys Hogescholen Eindhoven* Direction technical informatics
1993 – 1999	**Gymnasium** *Maurick College Vught* Dutch, English, German, Classical Latin, Mathermatics B, Physics, Chemistry, Economics