

DATA AND INTERNET SERVICES

POWER SOLUTIONS CASE STUDY of QUILOGY

UNITS

130 kW QT Series
natural gas genset

LOCATION

St. Charles, Missouri



QUILOGY WEATHERS THE STORM

In the world of business, the flow of data is crucial to every aspect of corporate activity. When your company is a premier provider of data services, clients are entrusting you with their business lifeline. Maintaining the highest level of service is always the foremost priority and having reliable backup power is essential.

Quilogy is a multi-service information technology (IT) provider located in the downtown area of historic St. Charles, Missouri, just 20 miles west of St. Louis. The company, founded in 1992, is a National Systems Integrator that helps clients to enhance their business by delivering innovative technology solutions. With a special focus on serving the public sector, as well as healthcare, manufacturing, financial and professional service enterprises, Quilogy has 14 offices nationwide.

Quilogy's three-story headquarters building – one of six fully-restored historic buildings that comprise the Quilogy campus – houses a variety of offices and the company's all-important data center. To protect its business operations in the event of a utility outage, Quilogy uses an APC battery system and Generac QT Series generator to provide seamless short and long term backup power to keep the computers operating and the room properly cooled.

“Our data center is the nexus of all of our internal systems,” says Alan Groh, chief technology officer. “We also use it to host systems that have been developed for clients, as well as to provide server resources to our project teams working across the country. The adjacent operations center – a separate room – monitors all systems in the data center and keeps tabs on internet connectivity at all of our offices.”

Quilogy's data center is a 950 square foot climate-controlled solid floor room containing nine server racks, one fiber cabinet and one SAN (Storage Area Network). In late 2005, Quilogy moved its data processing facility from a smaller room of the building to the new and significantly larger area.

Quilogy's previous backup generator was a 25 kilowatt Generac Guardian® natural gas model that had been in service since 2000. Although it was well suited for the prior task and had performed well during outages, a larger unit was required for the new data center. Both the facility design firm and a general contractor recommended diesel generators from other manufacturers,

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but Alan Groh wanted to consider other options. After learning about the new Generac QT Series, he was convinced that it was a superior solution, combining the numerous advantages of natural gas (no refueling, storage, spillage, spoilage or odor) with a lower capital cost. "Our experience with the gaseous-fueled Guardian unit was favorable, so there was no reason to make a change," Groh says. "By selecting the QT model, we easily saved more than \$10,000 when compared to the diesel alternatives. It was an easy decision."

The Generac QT 130 kilowatt model was selected as the best choice because of its capacity to satisfy Quilogy's evolving power requirements. The QT 130 can handle the upgraded 400 amp, 208 volt three phase electrical requirements. With Quilogy located in an historical area with shops and offices nearby, sound was another important factor in the decision to purchase the QT model. Because of its sound attenuated enclosure and advanced air flow design, the generator is among the quietest in its class when operating under load. During weekly exercise, the Quiet-Test™ feature operates the genset at a slower speed, making it even quieter. "Our generator is so quiet during the self-test that a person can not tell that it's running without standing directly next to the unit," says Mike Howells, data center engineer.

The wisdom of Quilogy's decision to purchase this system was soon proven as a series of severe

weather events caused widespread outages throughout the greater Saint Louis area during the spring and summer of 2006. According to Mike Howells, during each outage the QT generator supplied backup power within 15 seconds and operated perfectly without incident. The 25 kW Guardian unit, still hooked up to the former data center room, provided auxiliary power to the outlets there, enabling the creation of a makeshift work center during the longest of the outages.

Quilogy's experience shows the wisdom and value of having standby power. After enduring numerous power outages and coming through them so smoothly, Quilogy has enhanced its reputation as a reliable service supplier. "Operating a data center requires 24 / 7 availability," Mike Howells says, "and our clients depend on us to provide uninterrupted service. Downtime, even for a short duration, can be very costly. Our investment in a backup generator allowed us to provide seamless operation through the worst outages in our city's history."

GENERAC®

Generac Power Systems, Inc.
S45 W29290 Hwy. 59
Waukesha, WI 53189
1-888-GENERAC (1-888-436-3722)

generac.com



For More Information:
(866) 787-3271
Sales@PTSdcs.com