Standby power

> Case History
Netcare St Augustine’s Hospital

Where: Durban, South Africa

What: Two generator sets, model C1400 D5

Purpose: To provide a reliable source of standby power to ensure Netcare’s St Augustine’s Hospital remains 100% operational in the event of a power blackout

Primary choice factors:
- Value for money represented by Cummins South Africa
- Access to strong national support network
- Established technical expertise / access to technical support team

Cummins South Africa provides round the clock power protection

DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA - Netcare Hospital Group encompasses Netcare’s hospitals and specialised medical units, collectively representing the most modern and sophisticated medical facilities in South Africa. Every healthcare service is covered, from major organ transplants to the latest diagnostic procedures.

Situated prominently on Durban’s Berea with spectacular views of the cityscape, St Augustine’s Hospital is KwaZulu-Natal’s (on the Eastern coast) largest private hospital and is the second largest hospital in the Netcare group. Today, the 418-bed hospital enjoys an enviable reputation for its world-class facilities, boasting state-of-the-art medical equipment and technology, and offering a full range of medical disciplines.
The risk of a mains power failure represents a major hazard for any hospital - particularly those offering critical health services such as operating theatres and high-care units, as is the case at St Augustine’s. Previously, the hospital had been reliant on small generators to deliver standby power for essential services only, but Technical Manager Mike Wilson was keen to seek out an alternative solution capable of providing emergency power protection for the entire establishment.

“We now have 100% confidence that in the event of a mains power failure we can maintain normal functionality thanks to our two new generators, driven by Cummins Power Generation diesel engines. As soon as a power blackout occurs, both standby sets kick in automatically with the two generators being synchronized to produce full load power within about 15 seconds” says Mike Wilson. “And for added peace of mind, even the backup system has a backup plan. In the unlikely event of one of the generators shutting down or failing to start, the remaining set will continue to deliver uninterrupted power on pre-selected essential loads (such as operating theatres or high-care units) until the fault is cleared. Once the failed generator automatically restarts, the two sets re-synchronize and return to offering full power protection for the entire premises. The complete operation is controlled by a Cummins Power Generation MC150 master controller which can be programmed to provide pre-determined load share / load shed and sequential load demand capabilities”.

Cummins South Africa successfully fought off competition from Barloworld (CAT) and PNS Power to win the St Augustine’s business. The final decision was based upon Cummins South Africa’s ability to offer the best local value, excellent national network support and ease of access to the superior service and technical solutions provided using Cummins Power Generation equipment.

Rae Filmer, Regional Sales Manager, Cummins South Africa, Power Generation Division commented “The Cummins Power Generation generators are an ideal choice for important institutions, such as hospitals, where a total power failure is simply not an option. In these circumstances, the sourcing of a reliable back-up solution in the event of a conventional mains power failure is a fundamental requirement”.

And the end result? “It’s really fantastic and has put us all at ease - we are secure in the knowledge that we have placed the operational health of our hospital in the safe hands of Cummins South Africa!” says a delighted Mike Wilson.

For more information about integrated standby power systems, contact your local Cummins Power Generation distributor or visit www.cumminspower.com.