

We have problems on a regular basis, almost daily. But everything attached to the UPSs keeps right on working.

Laurence Richesin, chief engineer

5PX units keep TV station on the air without disruption

Location:

Panama City, Fla.

Segment:

Communication

Problem:

The TV station needed a high-availability solution with extended runtime that wouldn't occupy a lot of real estate in its equipment racks.

Solution:

Eaton® 5PX UPS

Results:

The 5PX not only ensures continuous uptime to connected equipment, but does so with extended battery life and a convenient rackmount design.

Background

WMBB-TV serves nine counties in the Florida Panhandle, representing more than 139,700 homes and a viewing audience in excess of 320,000. After signing on the air on Oct. 4, 1973 as WDTB-TV, an NBC affiliate, the station was later sold to Octagon Broadcasting of Atlanta, and the call letters were changed to WMBB-TV, home of the World's Most Beautiful Beaches.

Challenge

Regardless of the type of programming being broadcast at WMBB-TV, it is the station's uninterruptible power system (UPS) that holds the power to either emerge as a star — or cause ratings to plummet. That's because the ability to keep equipment up and running at all times is a requisite that cannot be downplayed at the busy TV station.

"A power problem takes us off the air," explains Laurence Richesin, chief engineer at WMBB-TV. "And that brings the revenue stream down."

Yet it's a programming glitch the station has experienced in the past with APC units, which Richesin reveals have frequently failed. In an effort to remedy this, WMBB-TV sought a new UPS solution capable of garnering five stars from critics. Unparalleled reliability, long battery life, and a compact footprint that wouldn't occupy a lot of space in the company's rack environment were among the features the station looked for in its casting call.

Solution

Shining in its audition was the Eaton 5PX, an enterprise-class battery backup solution offering exceptional manageability. Having deployed three units to date, Richesin is already planning to expand the 5PX cast.

"In the future, I will be purchasing four more of the UPSs to cover some new racks of equipment that will be deployed in the spring of 2012," he reveals.

The existing trio of 5PX units, installed in the bottom of equipment racks, is tasked with safeguarding a broad range of station equipment, including an audio/video router that directs everything in the building, several banks of audio disk arrays, and a rack of satellite devices. The UPSs' value is underscored by frequent power failures.

"We have problems on a regular basis, almost daily," Richesin says. "But everything attached to the UPSs keeps right on working."

Thankfully, the 5PX has also solved one of the biggest challenges the station faced with its previous APC units: battery life. "I have found that over three or four battery cycles, the APC unit itself fails," reports Richesin.



Powering Business Worldwide

Conversely, the 5PX relies on Eaton's exclusive ABM® battery charging technology, which uses sophisticated sensing circuitry and an innovative three-stage charging technique to extend the useful service life of the batteries while optimizing recharge time. ABM technology also provides up to 60 days' notice of the end of useful battery service life, allowing ample time to hot-swap batteries without ever having to shut down connected equipment. Furthermore, incoming voltage fluctuations are corrected by the UPS so they don't affect the performance of connected equipment.

Another key benefit of the 5PX is the fact that the UPS protects more devices by providing 28 percent more wattage than traditional UPSs. "I like the small size of the unit, which doesn't take up a lot of rack space," adds Richesin.

Furthermore, the 5PX's exceptional warranty covers both the UPS and the batteries for three years, a backing offered by no other manufacturers in the industry. Another highlight is the unit's extended runtime options, with the ability to accommodate up to four extended battery modules (EBMs) for maximum runtime

The 5PX is also bundled with Eaton's Intelligent Power® Software Suite, which seamlessly integrates with the VMware® vCenter Server™ virtualization management solution, as well as other popular platforms from manufacturers such as Citrix®, Microsoft® and Red Hat®. The Eaton software provides all of the tools needed to monitor and manage power devices across the network by combining the most critical applications to ensure system uptime and data integrity. The solution not only offers power monitoring and management, but also graceful shutdown during an extended power outage and extensive notification capabilities.

Results

With its three 5PX units in place — and more to come in the near future — WMBB-TV can focus all of its attention on programming, not power. The UPSs allow the station to:

- Safeguard its critical equipment against outages and other power anomalies
- Ensure programs remain on the air, even during a power failure
- Preserve floor space with the compact, rackmount units
- Power more equipment compared to traditional UPSs
- Extend battery service life with Eaton's ABM technology



Eaton 5PX

Learn how the Eaton 5PX can help you
at Eaton.com/5PX.

Eaton Corporation
Electrical Sector
1111 Superior Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44114 USA
Eaton.com

© 2012 Eaton Corporation
All Rights Reserved
Printed in USA
CS153003EN
November 2012

Eaton, ABM and Intelligent Power are registered trademarks of Eaton Corporation.

All other trademarks are property of their respective owners.