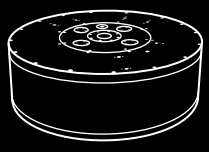
Active Power

ACTIVE POWER SOLUTIONS



FAIRVIEW HOSPITAL INSTALLS ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND, SPACE AGE TECHNOLOGY

Perched on the western edge of Cleveland and overlooking the Cleveland Metroparks, Fairview Hospital, a 478-bed acute care hospital, has served the community for more than 100 years. In 1997, Fairview teamed up with The Cleveland Clinic Foundation and nine other area hospitals to form the Cleveland Health System. The system, with 3,010 staffed beds, offers a broader geographic coverage and a full continuum of care to Northeast Ohio residents. Now, Fairview Hospital has moved forward again, with an environmentally correct technology designed to keep the hospital running smoothly.

A Green Solution

It's a green solution, says Paul Slebonik, director of facilities management at Fairview. The solution is the Powerware Flywheel, manufactured by Active Power and sold by Powerware Corporation. It's green because it extends the life of lead-acid batteries, reducing the need for frequent handling and the disposal of hazardous waste. And it's important because, "the Powerware Flywheel brings a greater degree of reliability to our critical power systems," says Slebodnik. Slebodnik says the decision to install the flywheel system was in part based on a five year cost analysis. "We looked at the cost of the Powerware Flywheel, the cost of buying batteries, the disposal of the batteries, and the risk and cost of downtime, maintenance and reliability. After five years, we were ahead with the flywheel."

Reliability Is Key

Each year Fairview Hospital tabulates more than 327,000 patient contacts, including about 43,000 emergency room visits, 3,300 births, 16,000 surgical procedures, and 20,000 inpatient admissions. Downtime is not an option in a hospital environment, says Slebodnik. He points to the hospital's Information Services department, which until recently included accounting and administrative functions and was fed by a traditional battery-backed UPS. The department now includes clinical systems as well, which have a direct influence on patient care. "Patient care information and life-support monitoring systems must be reliable," says Slebodnik. "The hospital's critical long-term analysis of the Powerware Flywheel showed a definite advantage over the batteries."

Slebodnik says when making the decision to purchase the Powerware Flywheel the hospital looked at other flywheel technologies, but they didn't have the engineering or features

they were looking for. Ernie Frick, compliance manager at Fairview, says the flywheel system is doing everything it was expected to do-and more. "We take regular hits from the utility company," says Frick. "Now, the flywheel takes the hits without ever even crossing the batteries." Frick says the hospital performs monthly generator tests, where power is transferred from 'normal mode' to 'emergency.' "Here too, the flywheel takes the transfer rather than the batteries," he says. As a result, Frick says they are actually extending battery life. Slebdonik says the goal is to find ways to eliminate the batteries altogether.

The Most Cost Effective Alternative

The Powerware flywheel provides significant advantages over batteries. It's a simple, cost-effective power storage alternative. As an added benefit, the flywheel also conserves space, and since it is non-toxic, there are no special safety or storage requirements.

Slebodnik says the hospital's diesel backup generator starts within 10 seconds. The Powerware Flywheel provides support for 15 to 120 seconds. "Since the flywheel can carry us through over 15 seconds, it seems the ideal solution," says Slebodnik.

It takes a progressive organization to view a product over the long term, in terms of the reliability benefit, potential lost revenue from downtime, and the benefit to patient care.

At Fairview Hospital, a revolutionary concept is making the rounds.

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