REPUBLIC BANK AND PLAZA

POWER SOLUTIONS CASE STUDY of

REPUBLIC BANK AND PLAZA

UNITS

Republic Bank:
4 x 200 kW natural gas

Republic Plaza:
3 x 288 kW diesel

LOCATION
Louisville, Kentucky

A GROWING BANK WITH GROWING NEEDS

Republic Bank, headquartered in downtown Louisville, Ky., has been serving the people of Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio and Florida since 1982. Today, Republic Bank has 44 banking centers throughout four states. The Kentucky headquarters houses not only day-to-day banking operations, but also a data center containing customers' information as well as a seasonal tax office that offers customers tax refund solutions.

After successfully launching its tax solutions division in 1998, Republic Bank realized in 2005 that during its annual business spike from January to March, daily operations doubled in size, leaving the building vulnerable to outages that could cripple both its seasonal and daily operations. As it prepared for another surge in business, the bank wondered, what would be the most efficient way to protect its customers? Republic Bank needed a solution in place before the next tax season began in January 2006. It was during this time that Republic Bank turned to Generac Industrial Power to secure its headquarters and, when it was time to expand once again, Generac was the only choice for Republic Bank.

> *"Once we had educated them on the benefits of having a modular system rather than one large generator, they were sold and haven't looked back."*

When Space Is Limited

"Republic Bank had originally secured a quote on an 800 kW natural gas unit from a competitor. When representatives contacted us, we knew right away a unit that large would not work, especially since space around the perimeter of the building was limited and the load on the roof would be uneven," says Steve Maser, Louisville branch manager for EVAPAR, a Generac Industrial Power dealer for Kentucky and Indiana. "Once we had educated them on the benefits of having a modular system rather than one large generator, they were sold and haven't looked back."

The Generac Modular Power System (MPS) was a natural choice for Republic Bank for a number of reasons. Not only was price and installation time a determining factor in the bank's decision, but so was space. The MPS 4 x 200 kilowatt (kW) natural gas system that EVAPAR installed on the roof eliminated the need for diesel fuel storage, an additional space requirement the bank did not have room for. A benefit of Generac's MPS is that it combines the output of multiple generators without the need for expensive and space-consuming paralleling switchgear. Additionally, with the 4 x 200 kW Generac MPS system, the bank has the reassurance of knowing that each genset backs up the other, so critical loads receive redundant

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protection all while providing the benefits of paralleled power generation in an easy-to-use, single-source system. The system also features onboard paralleling capabilities, making it easy to achieve n + 1 (need plus one) or greater coverage by simply adding modular generators of the appropriate size. This scalability allows for kW outputs to be tailored more precisely to current and future requirements. Generac's modular approach combines the output of multiple generators with digital paralleling controls onboard each generator. Generac's digital controls not only eliminate the need to integrate complex third party switchgear to parallel generators, but it saves the customer the expense and valuable building square footage.

Generac Keeps it Business As Usual

In 2006, months after EVAPAR had completed the roof installation at the bank, a strike of lightening managed to knock out the power in the building and as a result, destroyed much of the building's electrical infrastructure. EVAPAR worked with a local contractor to connect temporary feeders from the gensets to the elevators and HVAC system so the smoke and electrical damage could be fixed while the bank continued to maintain business as usual.

Generac's integrated paralleling system allows customers to remain operational during extended outages by providing the ability to perform scheduled maintenance without having to take the entire system off line. Remaining in-service units still serve the bank's critical loads in an extended outage should the need arise. The banking center on the first floor was able to operate on standby power for almost six weeks while the customers had no idea of the actual extent of the damage.

Once a Generac, Always a Generac

In the fall of 2008, Republic Bank's tax solution division had grown so large that it required its own space and moved across the street to Republic Plaza along with the company's telebanking call center which operates 24/7. The telebanking division was previously located in a building that did not have any emergency standby power.

"We could no longer afford to have a 24-hour operation located in a building that had no backup, so when the time came to move the tax solution division to a larger space, we made the decision to move the

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telebanking division as well," says Carol James, vice president and manager of facilities, Republic Bank. "Continuing with the Generac MPS system was a natural choice since the system installed in the bank had proven itself 100 percent when we had an outage shortly after the first installation in 2006."

Due to existing sub base diesel tanks, EVAPAR, in conjunction with engineers, designed and installed 3 x 288 kW diesel gensets in the parking garage. This installation was able to take place quickly and before the tax season began, due to Generac's short lead times for its MPS system. Manufacturers generally build large engine generators as they are ordered and ship these units to the site after manufacturing is complete. Smaller units, like many of the MPS systems offered by Generac (750 kW and below) are manufactured in high volumes with some inventory being established at the factory as well as the dealership. In the event a failure occurs and a unit needs to be replaced, the delivery of the new unit can take days rather than months.

Utilizing the highest volume of engines in the marketplace offers several benefits for the end user with regards to reliability and serviceability of Generac's integrated paralleling systems. If the unit fails during a natural disaster, delivering a smaller unit to a site is more feasible when roads and highways may be difficult to navigate.

In addition to Generac's incredibly short lead times on its MPS systems, its integrated paralleling approach uses mass-produced engines. Consequently, maintenance and replacement parts are less expensive. Multiple generator solutions also provide flexibility during service operations. With multiple generators available, unit(s) can be taken out of service for repair or scheduled maintenance without complete loss of a site's standby power. Remaining in-service units can still serve critical site loads should the need arise. The capital cost to replace a smaller unit is a fraction of the large, single generator expense.

"Luckily, we've managed to avoid another power outage at either location since 2006," says James. "But, we know that if it should happen again, both MPS systems are up to the task. They are both maintained to run flawlessly and we are able to continually grow and service our clients the best we can."

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