



Eaton 9PX makes life easier and more efficient for the energy provider

Location:
Tipton, Okla.

Segment:
Utility

Problem:
A server room expansion prompted the need for a more reliable and robust UPS solution for Southwest Rural Electric Cooperative.

Solution:
Eaton® 9PX

Results:
The Eaton 9PX perfectly addressed the utility's need for high availability, efficiency and communication capabilities.

If I buy another UPS, I will definitely buy Eaton. I really like them . . . in part because I haven't had to touch them.

Bob Reid, technology and facilities manager

Background

Southwest Rural Electric Cooperative (SWRE), a part of Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, is dedicated to serving member-owners with integrity, accountability, innovation and a longstanding commitment to the community. SWRE's service area includes 6,000 square miles of southwest Oklahoma and north Texas, where loyal and experienced employees are the key to the company's growth and success. Workers brave all types of weather, day and night, seven days a week, to make sure the cooperative members have electricity at the flick of a switch.

Challenge

When SWRE expanded its server room in the fall of 2013, the new addition prompted the need for an enhanced level of power protection within the environment. Considering that numerous switches and servers are responsible for keeping operations up and running, SWRE required a highly reliable and robust product. Although the company had previously relied on some smaller uninterruptible power systems (UPSs), it was ready to make the move to a higher quality solution.

In fact, after viewing a demonstration of Eaton products, Bob Reid, SWRE's technology and facilities manager, quickly recognized the need to upgrade his existing solution. "I knew that I wanted a high-end UPS," he acknowledges. "It's very important that our equipment stay up and running."

Indeed, any amount of unplanned downtime could be disastrous for the utility. "We wouldn't be able to communicate with our meters," Reid explains. "Plus our billing information would be unavailable and we couldn't process consumer needs. It would really impact our ability to work with our customers on a day-to-day basis."



Powering Business Worldwide

In addition to negatively impacting customer relations, a loss of power would adversely affect SWRE's bottom line. "Our servers have essentially become our cash registers," Reid points out. "They collect all of our meter readings, so it's critical they stay protected and well maintained."

Beyond exceptional availability, the utility sought a highly efficient UPS, as well as a model offering communication capabilities, since Reid wished to generate a variety of logs and reports.

Solution

SWRE truly saw the light with the acquisition of the Eaton 9PX UPS. Available in models ranging from 5-11 kVA, the unit is an ideal solution for both rack and stand-alone installations, delivering premium backup power and scalable battery runtimes for servers, voice/data networks and storage systems. With extended battery runtime options, hot-swappable batteries, an internal bypass and an optional maintenance bypass, the 9PX facilitates an unparalleled level of availability for critical systems.

"That's the reason I went with Eaton," Reid emphasizes. "I wanted a really good product."

To further enhance reliability, the 9PX is equipped with 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. In addition, ABM technology 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.

Also earning rave reviews from SWRE is the unit's high efficiency, which helps save money and protect the environment through energy efficient operation. In fact, the ENERGY STAR[®] qualified UPS boasts the highest efficiency rating in its class, achieving up to 93 percent in normal operating mode.

"That's another component that was important to me," Reid confirms. "Over a year's time, a penny saved is a penny earned."

Reid was also impressed with the power factor of the 9PX, which provides up to 28 percent more wattage than comparable UPSs, enabling users to connect more devices.

Eaton's next-generation LCD interface, which provides all critical UPS information in a single view, is another helpful feature of the 9PX. The user-friendly menu allows Reid to view information and control settings with the simple touch of a button.

"The LCD display is very intuitive," he agrees. "It's not hard at all to cycle through and get the information I need."

And when it comes to accessing event logs and pertinent UPS data, Reid is able to obtain everything he needs using the web interface. "I get reports emailed to me on power consumption, voltage data, frequency and load," he explains. "It all stays very consistent with the UPS making adjustments."

Along with the 5 kVA UPS, the company deployed a matching Eaton power distribution unit. "It gives me plenty of protected plug-ins and makes for a nice, clean install," Reid says.

Reid is also considering installing Eaton's Intelligent Power[®] Software Suite, which features all of the tools to monitor and manage power devices across the network, even in virtualized environments. 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.

"We are in the process of expanding our virtual environment, and the software could be very useful," Reid reveals.

In the meantime, the 9PX has done a fantastic job keeping all of SWRE's systems up and running during several power outages.

"If I buy another UPS, I will definitely buy Eaton," Reid reveals. "I really like them . . . in part because I haven't had to touch them."

Results

"The 9PX has helped us know that we've cleaned up our power," Reid sums up. "It gave us an intelligent, expandable system, along with plenty of resources from Eaton."

With the 9PX in place, SWRE is now able to:

- Ensure ongoing protection and uptime for its servers and networking equipment
- Protect more devices with the unit's high power factor
- Slash energy consumption with the high efficiency of the 9PX
- Expand runtime with additional battery modules
- Gain access to event logs and reports for in-depth power monitoring

For more information about the 9PX, visit
Eaton.com/9PX