

Case Study

2 x 500kVA Diesel Generators Supplied & Installed as Backup Power at East Sussex County Council.

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Generator Associates were chosen as the supplier and installer of a new electrical power backup system at East Sussex County Council Head Office.

Introduction: East Sussex County Council's offices in Lewes are a hub for various vital departments who supply a range of local services in East Sussex. Services such as Children's Services, Corporate Resources, Transport and Environment require power 24/7. East Sussex County Council choose Generator Associates to assist them in ensuring they had continuity of power even when the mains electricity failed.

Over the course of several months, Generator Associates were involved with a number of council departments and specialist consultants to ensure that the County Halls future requirements as well as current systems were fully understood. After careful analysis the ideal solution was confirmed as 2 x 500kVA standby diesel containerised generators. The backup generators were designed as auto mains failure, with the entire control system custom made. The generators were AMF spec with remote start control panels, so that they would automatically start in the event of a mains power failure. To ensure the Council would have plenty of fuel to run the generators for a lengthy time (incase of severe mains power disruption such as fallen trees on power lines, damaged substations) a large 13,000 litre external bunded fuel tank was supplied and installed. A custom made control panel and ATS (automatic transfer switch), including a 1200A breaker, bypass switch and MCCB's were also supplied and installed.

East Sussex County Council wanted a supplier who would provide the right equipment and service within the required timeframe. Generator Associates met the Council's programme of works successfully. The Senior Maintenance Officer at ESCC Mick Wright explains *"The dual purpose of installing the generators was to provide electrical services to County Hall in the event of a mains failure and to provide resilience for our UPS and ICT services. The main change over and switching work took place over the same weekend as we changed all the equipment in our electrical sub station. This entailed a detailed coordinated programme and response from all concerned at Managerial and site level, so that County Hall and all its services returned to normal working for Monday morning."*

Logistics & Installation: Delivering and positioning multiple large items with hiab and crane at the Head Office of a busy County Council is no simple matter and a number of tasks were completed out of hours. With the assistance of a team of skilled engineers, electricians and project managers, both generator systems were delivered and installed successfully. The system was then commissioned & tested with a stand alone load bank.

During final connections, a brief period was required when the mains would be disconnected. As the sites existing backup system for essential services needed to be taken offline at the same time, this would mean a disruption to all departments. Generator Associates arranged hire generators to power these systems during the final connections.

Support: As part on the ongoing support and guidance, Generator Associates provide service and maintenance on the generators and 24/7 emergency call out. We believe it is important to ensure all parties are regularly updated on a project and remain in contact with them well after commissioning and hand over.

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