



power supplies

Above: Fuel held within back-up generators can sit in tanks for so long it becomes problematic, clogging up generators and causing emergency systems to fail. Fuel polishing systems help to remove dirt and bacteria and return fuel to its original condition. **Right:** WASP PFS fuel cleaning systems are being used by a number of hospitals in the UK, ensuring they have back-up power in the event of a failure



identified free water, emulsified water, microbial growth and other contaminations in the fuel within the back-up generator. The water was a threat to the generator's fuel system and could have caused damage to, or even destroyed, its injectors. Furthermore, it increased the fuels acidity levels, caused the breeding of bacteria and the formation of biomass. This blocked the fuel pipes and filters and caused the engine to lose efficiency.

"During an emergency situation, these problems could have caused their generators to stall or fail completely, which would risk the lives of patients undergoing high-risk surgical procedures, or those relying on respiratory equipment in cardiac units or intensive care units. It would also risk staff wellbeing while working in rooms without any back-up lighting."

The WASP system works by removing the ingress water and contaminations from the fuel and restoring it to optimum quality within a matter of hours.

"Recycling the fuel costs far less than disposing it and sourcing more, not just in monetary terms but also in terms of carbon emissions," said Ross.

"We did one hospital in Gloucester that had spent £750,000 on fuel for its back-up generators, so this is no small amount we are talking about. It makes sense to invest in something that is not very expensive, but will ensure that back-up generators do the job they were intended to do at a time when maintaining services is critical."

www.wasp-pfs.com

Switching on to fuel polishing systems

Hospitals are busy environments that have to operate around the clock.

This means a constant supply of power for things like lighting and heating, but also to run the plethora of medical appliances used in every healthcare setting.

In the case of a failure, hospitals use back-up generators that kick in should the general supply fail.

But, with outages thankfully rare, are hospitals doing enough to ensure their emergency systems are in good condition?

Last year in the US a series of hurricanes threw this issue into the spotlight, with hospitals finding themselves without critical power. One of the reasons for this problem is that back-up generators use fuel and that fuel has to be in tip-top condition. So,

as was the case in the US, if systems have not been checked for several years, or even decades in some instances, they will not do the job they were installed to do.

In the UK hospitals are beginning to realise this and are taking measures to reduce the risk.

One Birmingham hospital recently installed 10 fuel polishing systems on its back-up generators as a preventative measure.

The increasingly-popular technology, supplied by WASP PFS, will maintain the quality of the stagnant or stored fuel in the back-up generator tanks, helping to prevent the generators from failing during an emergency situation.

Speaking to hdm, Geoff Ross, sales director at WASP, explained: "The hospital called us in and we recognised there was a problem and

Hospitals switch over to Bender ATICS

An increasing number of hospitals and private clinics are selecting Bender ATICS to safeguard vital power supplies and protect patients in critical care facilities.

ATICS is the UK's only automatic changeover and monitoring device that is Safety Integrity Level (SIL) Level 2 accredited.

Bender UK managing director, Steve Mason, said: "There has been a general move within the healthcare sector towards high-integrity changeover

systems which, combined with parallel power sources, provide greater resilience for medical power infrastructures. Health authorities and specifiers are recognising that unique element of ATICS and choosing it for guaranteed performance and power system resilience."

ATICS offers a higher level of security and reliability due to the (SIL) Level 2 design and development process. It removes the single-point-of-failure threat to power resilience inherent in

the traditional single supply cable by enabling supply from two different sources. The primary supply maintains normal operation, but in the event of failure, ATICS transfers over to the secondary supply within 0.5 seconds to comply with HTM06-01.

Central to the ATICS design is the incorporation of permanent self testing across all critical components, bringing increased peace of mind.

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