

Case Study



Technology Applications

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– Roland Robustelli,
Project Engineer,
Johnson Controls



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Johnson Controls Chooses Falcon Electric for Power Protection Needs at Ft. Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport

Johnson Controls, Inc., a \$17 billion Fortune 500 company, is a leading worldwide supplier of building control systems, services and integrated facility management to education, health care, office, government and retail sectors. They manufacture electronic, electromechanical and pneumatic control products and sensors of all types. The company also engineers and installs advanced building automation systems, direct digital control and pneumatic systems to meet a wide range of customer environmental control needs.

Roland Robustelli, project engineer for Johnson Controls, was working on an install of their Metasys building automation system in the new addition of the Ft. Lauderdale/Hollywood Intl. Airport. The Metasys building automation system uses industry-leading technology to provide information that helps manage buildings more efficiently. With the Metasys system, customers can decrease maintenance and utility costs while increasing occupant productivity and providing a comfortable, productive and safe building environment. The main responsibility of the Metasys system at the Ft. Lauderdale/Hollywood Airport was to control the chiller plant in this new terminal.

As automation systems become more technologically advanced, they are also more sensitive to power events such as sags, spikes, surges, brownouts and other line noise. A power anomaly could interrupt the Metasys program, bringing down the system and discontinuing the cooling

system in the airport. For the Metasys program to remain operational and its system working seamlessly, Robustelli knew that he needed an Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS). But he also needed a UPS for monitoring purposes, one that would alert them in the event they lost power. What Robustelli needed was a 500VA UPS with open and closed contacts or DB9 connections.

After reviewing information on the Internet, Robustelli turned to Falcon Electric, Inc. for help. Headquartered in Irwindale, Calif., Falcon Electric is a leading manufacturer of UPSs, frequency converters and voltage regulators that serve government, financial, telecom, computer and other industries with critical power requirements.

According to Robustelli, "I contacted Falcon Electric's chief engineer, Mike Stout, and discussed our application with him. Mike recommended that we order a Falcon Electric NLP500VA UPS with open and closed contacts." The UPS has been installed now for several months and Johnson Controls' Metasys system program has not experienced any power-related failures. Robustelli adds, "Based on the unit's performance to date, I will most likely recommend that a Falcon UPS be included in our future system sales where power events are expected to be an issue."