



 Vince Siragusa, Facilities Manager, Abt Electronics Super Store

In an era of "big-box, category-killer megastores," family-owned Abt Electronics has been very successful operating from just one location. Since 1936 a winning strategy of good prices, excellent service, professional installation and free delivery has enabled it to grow from a small downtown Chicago radio shop to a new 350,000 sq. ft. suburban complex. A popular shopping "destination," this retail and on-line sales operation generates its own power in a facility that's as "state-of-the-art" as the high-tech products on display.

Each day from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., a pair of Waukesha Engine -engine/generator units provide 1650 kW of reliable electric power, handling base loading and peak shaving to avoid high demand charges. Another benefit of the on-site power plant is the store, on-line sales operation and warehouse can operate in "island" mode during a blackout or brownout.

According to Abt's Vince Siragusa, "In an area with historically high power rates, the naturalgas fueled Enginators are saving us money plus we don't need a diesel standby unit. Depending on the price of natural gas, we could even produce our own electricity at a cost even lower than off-peak rates if we wanted to."

WAUKESHA ENGINE, DRESSER, INC. 1000 WEST ST. PAUL AVENUE WAUKESHA, WI 53188



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