



EDUCATION

Carmel Unified School District Reduces Maintenance and Energy Costs with Intermatic's Integrated Lighting Controls

With nine sites spread over 600 square miles, managing ongoing maintenance and repair of the facilities held challenges for the Carmel Unified School District, in Carmel-by-the-Sea, California. Maintenance personnel travelled long distances to make what were sometimes minor adjustments, and the twice a year Daylight Saving Time changes—never mind occasional power outages—could become a time-consuming undertaking.

Bob Gruber, Maintenance and Operations Supervisor, knew the district was incurring significant labor and opportunity costs, which he was determined to reduce. Gruber researched a number of different lighting control products, with particular attention to products with remote control and easy integration features. "I wanted something I could monitor, change and adjust without having to chase halfway around the world, wasting fuel and man hours," he recalls.

GRUBER ZEROED IN ON INTERMATIC'S ET90000 SERIES OF LIGHTING CONTROLS, WHICH OFFER REMOTE CONTROL AND CONNECTIVITY VIA A PC OR MOBILE APP THAT MOST OTHER LIGHTING CONTROLS DON'T. GRUBER QUICKLY SAW THE ADVANTAGES. "IF I GET ONE OF THOSE CALLS THAT THE GAME IS RUNNING LATE AND THEY NEED AN ADJUSTMENT TO KEEP THE LIGHTS IN THE GYM ON, I JUST MAKE A FEW SIMPLE CLICKS AND I'M DONE," GRUBER SAYS.

Carmel's success with the ET90215C devices was kicked into high gear in early 2016, when Intermatic introduced its ET9500, known as BAS "integration in a box". BAS, which stands for Building Automation Systems, is a sophisticated

method to monitor and control a building or facility's energy needs.

The ET9500, a convenient multi-protocol interface designed to speak the language of five of the six most common BAS protocols, integrates the ET90000 lighting controls with the facility's BAS. This gave Carmel the option to integrate all of its controls—HVAC, security, cameras, and other systems—into one device, using one interface. "This is what I've been wanting," Gruber says.

Integration of lighting controls with the BAS provides visibility, control and convenience. The facility manager gets real-time status and alerts with fingertip control on a single, central user interface.

INTERMATIC DESIGNED THE ET9500 FOR "PLUG AND PLAY" INTEGRATION SIMPLICITY. THE WEB INTERFACE IS PRECONFIGURED FOR HASSLE-FREE INSTALL AND THE BAS PROTOCOL CAN BE SELECTED IN THE FIELD. "BUILDING AUTOMATION INTEGRATION MAY SEEM COMPLICATED AND HIGH-TECH, BUT WE'VE MADE IT SIMPLE," SAYS JOHN LEE, INTERMATIC MARKETING MANAGER. "EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR INTEGRATION IS IN THIS ONE BOX."

The ET90000 series' 30 A per circuit rating, in comparison to the 20 A offered by most competitors, was another attraction. 30 A can power more than just lighting controls, making it possible to control HVAC, security systems, and more from one device.

Gruber was also drawn to the ease of programming and the large capacity of ET90000 devices. Over 2000 events, plus 99 holidays can be preprogrammed into the ET90000, far more than the other



brand he was using. This gives the device a "fix it and forget it" advantage that eases the maintenance burden and contributes to energy savings.

In addition, relative date programming dispenses with the need to program hard dates. Instead a facility manager can simply program for the first Saturday in January or every weekday of the year. That exactly fit Gruber's requirements for reliable, easy-to-program controls.

Gruber selected the ET90215C model for Carmel and has been delighted with its performance. "This has been huge for us," he says. Gruber estimates that the district has saved, at a minimum, 80–100 maintenance hours annually.

GRUBER HAS BEEN SO PLEASED WITH THE IMPROVED ENERGY AND MAINTENANCE SAVINGS, THAT HE HAS RECOMMENDED INTERMATIC'S PRODUCTS TO HIS COLLEAGUES AT THE PACIFIC GROVE AND MONTEREY UNITED SCHOOL DISTRICTS. HE HAS HIGH PRAISE FOR INTERMATIC'S PRODUCT SUPPORT.

"I had support from everybody," he says. "They were great to work with."



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