



Roche Relies on Natural Gas for Added Runtime Gas Injection Doubles Emergency Generation Capacity

From I-69, the Roche Diagnostics campus looks like just another in a series of office parks. But for the world's leading provider of diagnostic systems and decision-oriented health information, this 144 acre collection of buildings play critical roles in day-to-day operations.

In addition to providing space for offices, research and production of medical devices, the Indianapolis facility is also an IT hub for the company. "Even if we weren't producing anything, we have people who need nonstop power," explains Jim McCoy, who oversees the facility's emergency generators. "We have uninterruptible power supplies, but the best of those provide power for only up to an hour."

That's why Roche invested in a large backup generation array in 1993. If the electricity supply fails, the system's five 1600-horsepower Caterpillar



engines will be synchronized to deliver enough electricity to meet the needs of the entire campus in just two minutes. "We can bring an individual engine up in 20

seconds, but it can't carry the campus load, so we bring them all up and synchronize them before we throw the switch," says McCoy.

Five years ago, in an

effort to minimize the risk of a long-term power loss, Roche studied ways to increase the runtime of the generators. An obvious solution would be to double the storage capacity