



Rental Power

> Case History

2007 Gathering of Mustangs & Legends, USA



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Where:

Rickenbacker Airport, Columbus, Ohio, USA

What:

42 Rental Power units plus junction boxes and distribution panels

Purpose:

Provide event power for activities spread out over six square miles

Primary choice factors:

Supply and setup of Rental Power units and all associated equipment, plus refueling by the local Cummins Power Generation distributor

U.S. Air Force celebrates 60th anniversary with air show powered by Cummins Power Generation

COLUMBUS, OHIO, USA — By the time the four-day aviation celebration was over, more than 300,000 people had attended the 2007 Gathering of Mustangs & Legends at Rickenbacker International Airport. They had come from all over the nation to see vintage fighter aircraft from World War II fly in formation with today's state-of-the-art fighters.

Among the stars of this once-in-a-lifetime event were 86 airworthy P-51 Mustang fighters — the planes that played a major role in the Allied campaign to achieve air supremacy in Europe during WWII. Other stars were WWII flying aces and legends at the event, all in their late 80s and early 90s.

The celebration was the culmination of Air Force Heritage Week, the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Air Force. Coincidentally, it was also the 65th anniversary of the Rickenbacker Airport and the 65th anniversary of the Tuskegee Airmen who were stationed at Rickenbacker in 1947. Some of the surviving Tuskegee Airmen also attended the event.



Cummins Power Generation provided 42 Rental Power units for the event through its distributors in Ohio, Michigan and Kentucky.



The temporary control tower for the air show was powered by a 250 kW Rental Power unit from Cummins Power Generation.

To provide all the necessary electrical power for an event of this magnitude, the host airport turned to Cummins Power Generation Inc. and its local distributor, Cummins Bridgeway.

Initial planning discounted power needs

“We began planning for this event about two years ago,” said Rick Roberts, airfield manager for Rickenbacker International Airport. “We’ve done air shows at this airport before, but nothing of this magnitude.”

The group sponsoring the event expected that the airport would be able to provide power for the various loads, but two factors made that impossible, according to Roberts. “First, the crowds and activities were spread out over six square miles — well beyond the reach of power cords. Second, all of the power for the airfield lighting system was very high voltage, and there was no way to tap into it. The solution was Rental Power,” he said.

Need for power grew steadily

“From an initial estimate of just three small generators, the actual number of units required turned into 42,” said Tamara Ogg, manager of rentals and field service marketing with Cummins Bridgeway in Columbus. “Twenty-four of the trailerized Rental Power units ranged from 15 kW to 250 kW. They were used for the larger electrical loads, such as the temporary control tower that was set up to coordinate the flyovers, and the large ‘Jumbotron’ sign that was used to communicate with the crowds of spectators.”

One of the 250 kW units provided extra power to an airplane hangar that housed several television and radio crews. “Our newest and quietest Rental Power units were used to power loads along the show line, where most of the spectators were located,” said

Ogg. “An additional 18 portable generators ranging in size from 3 kW to 5 kW were used to power displays, lighting and credit card machines in the vendors’ tents. Several vendors were powered off of each of the smaller generator sets, and we supplied all of the junction boxes and distribution panels as well.”

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While most of the larger Rental Power units came from Cummins Bridgeway in Columbus, several units had to be brought in from other Cummins Power Generation distributors in Ohio, Michigan and Kentucky. In support of the event, Cummins Bridgeway also donated the use of five Rental Power units to the project.

An emotional event

The real stars of the show were the airplanes and the veteran pilots. “The most amazing thing for me,” said Roberts, “was to see these 86 P-51 Mustangs that are still flying and to think about the things they were capable of doing back then. One 93-year-old veteran flying ace in a wheelchair was escorted up to the very same aircraft that he flew in WWII. He laid his hand on the wing and wept, saying ‘If this airplane could speak, it would tell how many times it saved my life.’”

Public feedback from the event has been very positive, according to Roberts. “It was a lot of hard work, and I’d do it again in a heartbeat. But, I can assure you, I could not have done it without the help of Cummins Bridgeway,” he concludes.

For more information about Rental Power or other energy solutions, contact your local Cummins Power Generation distributor or visit www.cumminspower.com/rental.

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