Case History
U.S. Embassy, Beijing, China

Where:
U.S. Embassy, Beijing, China

What:
Three Cummins Power Generation 10 kV 1,290 kW and one 400 kV 110 kW generator sets providing standby power for the complex’s five buildings

Purpose:
Emergency standby power to the U.S. Embassy in China that employs more than 1,000 people, serves as telecommunication center for the U.S. State Department’s North East Asia Region, and provides shelter for American citizens during political and weather-related emergencies

Primary choice factors:
Cummins Power Generation’s demonstration of best-in-class quality products and industry leadership in customer service

Cummins Power Generation provides standby power for new U.S. embassy in Beijing

While most of the world’s attention was focused upon the opening ceremony of the Summer Olympics in Beijing, another significant event occurred the same day, in the same city. It was the dedication of the second-largest American embassy in the world, located in Beijing, China, where power will never be interrupted thanks to a standby power system from Cummins Power Generation Inc.

The official unveiling of the impressive new embassy building featured former presidents George W. Bush and his father, George H.W. Bush. Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who helped orchestrate improved China-U.S. relations in the 1970s, was also in attendance for the ceremony.

Combining tradition with the state of the art
The massive $434 million diplomatic complex spans 500,000 square feet, making it the second-largest American embassy in the world after the heavily fortified U.S. compound in Baghdad.
Rather than create a single monumental tower, the San Francisco-based office of architectural firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP elected to design an assortment of low- and mid-rise buildings. The modern stone, concrete and glass structures rise over a series of gardens in a landscape planned according to traditional Chinese design principles.

To meet functionality requirements, as well as to encourage interaction among embassy staff, the campus is organized into three neighborhoods. After arriving at the main public entrance, visitors continue to the gardens and the consular building. Another neighborhood features outdoor spaces and low pavilions that contain a cafeteria and store to serve embassy staff and their families. Offices reside in a separate eight-story tower and three-story pavilion, the tower sheathed in patterned ceramic frit-coated glass that is supported by a tensile net structure.

Three of Cummins Power Generation’s 10 kV 1,290 kW and one 400 kV 110 kW generator sets provide standby power for the complex’s five buildings, which are enclosed in bulletproof transparent or opaque glass. The embassy houses a staff of about 1,000 people from 26 U.S. agencies who previously worked at 22 locations around Beijing.

Although located on foreign soil, a U.S. Embassy is governed by U.S. authority and needs the ability to function as independently as possible. In emergencies such as weather disasters or earthquakes, U.S. citizens may turn to embassies for help.

Standby generator sets provide critical support
John Watkins, president of Cummins East Asia and vice chairman of AmCham China, was among honored guests invited to represent American business interests in China.

According to Yang Shuliang, general manager of the Cummins Power Generation East Asia Power Generation Business, proposals to provide power generation for the new U.S. embassy began in early 2004. The project was on the drawing board since the mid-1990s.

“A standby generator set is one of the most critical subsystems supporting the embassy facility, which will be a landmark building in Beijing,” Shuliang noted. “From the very beginning of the bidding process, leading generator set manufacturers in the United States tried their best to win the contract. Thanks to our outstanding team efforts, Cummins Power Generation succeeded by demonstrating our best-in-class offer of quality products and customer service.”

The Chinese government also selected Cummins Power Generation for many of the new Beijing landmarks built for hosting the Olympic Games, including:

- Gymnasiuims, the Olympic swimming pool and tennis court
- Additional supporting facilities such as Beijing’s New South Railway Station and Terminal 3 of Capital Airport, one of the biggest and most advanced airports in the world, along with Beijing’s New International Exhibition Center
- Beijing Power’s emergency standby generator set fleet

For more information about integrated standby power systems, contact your local Cummins Power Generation distributor or visit www.cumminspower.com.