

California Youth Authority Seeks Savings Through Simplicity



The California state budget crunch has been well publicized, and every state agency has been challenged to reduce costs and become more efficient. The California Department of the Youth Authority, which operates 15 correctional facilities throughout the state, initiated a major lighting retrofit project at its five Southern California centers last year. Installing ballasts manufactured by Universal Lighting Technologies dramatically lowered energy and fixture replacement costs for the California Youth Authority (CYA).

The CYA is the largest youth corrections agency in the nation, with 5,700 young men and women in institutions and camps with approximately 4,200 more on parole. The juvenile and criminal courts of California have committed these youths for treatment and training.

From April to November of 2002, the CYA Construction Department converted five facilities in Whittier, Norwalk, Chino, El Paso de Robles and Ventura from older T12 magnetic

ballasts to newer T8 electronic systems. The centers are all 30+ years old, and many were illuminated using eight-foot fluorescent fixtures with magnetic ballasts. "The major changes in the project were to retrofit all of the eight-foot fixtures into four-footers and to replace all of the ballasts with Universal Lighting Technologies models that supported either 120-volt or 277-volt applications," said Construction Supervisor Lance Phillips. "These changes resulted in a tremendous benefit for our maintenance departments because now they only need to stock one size of fluorescent lamp and one ballast, resulting in an overall reduction in inventory and transaction costs."

Catalina Ballast and Bulb in El Monte, California, supplied the ballasts/fixture systems. Catalina has a ballast contract with the state for both new construction and retrofit projects. According to Catalina's president, Frank Sarate, the CYA used conversion kits to change the fluorescent lighting from F40T12 and F48T12 units to F32T8 units and installed reliable Universal

In Brief:

Project:

California Department of the Youth Authority

Location:

Sacramento, California

Products Used:

Triad[®] Low Profile electronic fluorescent ballasts (B232IUNVHP-B and B432IUNVHP-A)

Total Number Installed:

Approximately 14,700

For more information about:

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Catalina Ballast and Bulb

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Lighting Technologies parallel-lamp ballasts. "If one lamp burns out, the others stay lit," he said. "When we were awarded this job the Youth Authority told us the number one objective was reliability, so we put together a system package that we knew would meet their needs."

The ballasts installed for either the two- or four-lamp configurations were Universal Lighting Technologies' Triad® Low Profile electronic linear



fluorescent ballasts (B232IUNVHP-B and B432IUNVHP-A). "These ballasts feature installer-friendly universal input voltage (108–305 volts), making them ideal for the California Youth Authority, which was replacing an inventory dedicated to 120- and 277-volt magnetic T12 ballasts," said Nora Sanchez, Catalina's project manager. The ballasts are low profile—45 percent smaller and much lighter weight than their predecessor ballasts—and high performance. They operate with less than 10 percent Total Harmonic Distortion (THD), which is important in specialized incarceration facilities where electrical interference with their high-technology surveillance cameras and electronic monitoring equipment can occur.

Altogether the CYA installed more than 11,000 two-lamp ballasts and nearly 3,700 four-lamp ballasts at an estimated project cost of \$1.2 million. Installation at each center took approximately three months to complete.

According to Phillips, the nicest surprise was the energy savings that resulted from the retrofit project. "We had a total facility energy savings goal of around seven percent," he said, "but based on the utility bills we have seen upon job completion, we are now anticipating annual savings closer to 14–15 percent, double our original expectations."

The California Youth Authority project demonstrates that lighting upgrade programs provide both financial and practical benefits at a time when commercial, institutional, industrial and government entities everywhere are trying to reduce costs to meet falling tax revenues. "We are seeing an increase in inquiries from a number of federal and state entities who, given the current economic environment, have a strong desire to streamline costs and improve energy-efficiency within facilities," said Mark Timbario, electronic products manager for Universal Lighting Technologies Inc.

Universal Lighting offers a comprehensive line of products to meet the demands of today's retrofit applications. For energy-conscious applications where inventory is reduced and overall lighting is improved, customers count on Universal Lighting product solutions.

About Universal Lighting Technologies

Universal Lighting Technologies Inc. manufactures ballasts and controls for all lighting applications. The company's full line of ballasts is designed for exceptional performance in lamps ranging from 5 to 2000 watts. These include magnetic, electronic, dimming, high intensity discharge, compact and fluorescent sign ballasts, controls and neon transformers. As a major manufacturer of electrical equipment, Universal Lighting plays a lead role in setting industry standards for quality and energy efficiency. The company actively participates in trade associations and assists in the development of many standards through ANSI, NEMA and IESNA.

Want to Know More?

Universal Lighting Technologies' ballasts are available through a nationwide network of electrical distributors and are also incorporated in the designs of leading OEM lighting fixture manufacturers. To learn more about the full line of Universal Lighting's ballasts or to request a catalog, call 1-800-BALLAST, fax your request to 615-316-5146, or visit the Web site at www.universalballast.com.



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