

Platform Housing

Computer Power Protection Case Study



Platform Housing is one of the largest housing associations in the Midlands, managing over 48,000 homes across a vast geographical range. From Herefordshire in the West to the Lincolnshire coast in the East, and from the Derbyshire Dales in the North to the Cotswolds in the South, Platform Housing is a major key player in providing quality housing solutions to a large variety and diverse range of communities.

With the launch of their brand new purpose-built administration offices and data centre located in Worcester, Platform Housing had approached Computer Power Protection (CPP) to assess the feasibility of implementing a generator to back up their critical data centre operations.

In many cases when implementing a backup power solution, a generator is considered for a robust power protection plan.

Platform Housing had a significant power outage. This outage prompted the realisation that their UPS system, while effective in providing backup power to servers, needed augmentation to support all IT facilities across the business.

This is due to the UPS battery alone not providing enough power to support all the IT facilities across the business.

So, Neil Clarke of Platform Housing contacted Mark Trafford at Computer Power Protection who are already a trusted supplier and maintainer of back-up power to Platform Housing, for a comprehensive solution.

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All the Data Centre and Air-conditioning circuits were transferred to a new generator-supported Distribution Board to ensure autonomy. All the connections to the generator, now mounted on a specially built plinth, were made ready for commissioning, by a NICEIC certified engineer.

“It was a pleasure to team up with Platform Housing which now has an autonomous data centre free from interruption”

Mark Trafford Director of Technical Sales | UPS Systems PLC

Following a site visit, Computer Power Protection (CPP) identified that the data centre together with air conditioning equipment were at risk of closing down during a prolonged power outage. Mark Trafford at CPP carefully calculated the requirements and correctly sized a 165kVA generator to meet all of Platform Housing’s present goals and support all of their future requirements.

During the site visit the identification of the most appropriate location to install the generator was proposed to the client, providing advice and documentation. CPP submitted all necessary documents and continued with assisting Platform Housing with applying for planning permission. Once planning permission was secured CPP started to project manage the installation of 165kVA generator.

CPP handled the installation process with precision, ensuring all cabling from across the other side of the car park was installed underground and entered the building in the Switchgear Room. CPP installed an Automatic Transfer Switch, (ATS). This is fundamental and is required for detecting a power outage and automatically starting and enabling control over the generator.



Once commissioned by a manufacturer-trained generator engineer, the acid test was to carry out a blackout test. This is to ensure all standby power systems including the generator perform under real power outage conditions. The test validated the performance and reliability of the UPS systems and the newly installed backup generator, under real power outage conditions. Of course, all the IT systems across the company remained on-line.

“We now have confidence that our business continuity has total independent autonomy, whatever the external conditions throw at us – that’s good for us, but ultimately good for our customers.”

Neil Clarke - Platform Housing