



Megger Cable Fault Locator Systems Powered by Tripp Lite Inverters



SUMMARY

Customer

For over 100 years, Megger has been the premier provider of electric test equipment and measuring instruments for electrical power applications. With locations in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Great Britain, France, India and Bahrain, Megger serves customers locally, anywhere in the world.

Goal

Embed a durable, remote-site power supply in high-level devices which detect and analyze problems with underground power networks.

Solution

PowerVerter® Ultra-Compact Inverter

- PV1800HF

Results

Successful implementation and deployment, with plans for expanded production.

Customer

For over 100 years, Megger has been the premier provider of electric test equipment and measuring instruments for electrical power applications. Best known for a world-famous range of insulation testers, Megger provides a full-service solution to meet customers' electrical test and measurement needs. Their 1000+ products provide testing solutions in the key maintenance areas of cable fault locating, protective relay testing and power quality testing. Megger manufactures products at sites in Dallas, Texas; Valley Forge, Pennsylvania and Dover, England, and maintains sales and technical support offices across the U.S. and Canada, as well as in Mexico City, Dover, Paris, Mumbai and Manama, Bahrain. Through a global network of several hundred sales representatives, product literature and user manuals in multiple languages and product software with multilingual display, Megger serves customers locally, anywhere in the world.

Goal

Megger set out to add a highly durable, remote-site power supply to their Power Cable Fault Locator System model PFL20M—a device used by contractors and power utilities to detect and analyze problems with underground power networks. The equipment is deployed when a large underground distribution line fails, resulting in an entire residential subdivision or a large industrial operation suddenly being without power.

Jerry Frank, Megger's Senior High Voltage Systems Engineer, described the situational challenges by saying, "To reach the job site—which could be in a Chilean copper mine, a Kuwaiti oil field or an Italian smelter—these instruments may endure rough handling during hours of transportation over unimproved roads." Regardless of these deterrents, he said, "Our equipment is expected to be ready to function when the lights go out or the factory grinds to a halt."

Any delay can be extremely costly. "At mines, foundries, oil fields or steel mills, the cost for a lost hour of productivity may be in the tens of thousands of dollars," Frank continued. "In Europe, utility companies suffer stiff penalties for lost customer service minutes. It may take the fault locating and repair crew several hours to travel to the job site. When they get there, equipment failure is not an option, as there is no redundancy for this piece of capital equipment."

In order to ensure that their Power Cable Fault Locator Systems are fully operational immediately upon arrival and for as long as needed, Frank and his team began to pursue incorporation of an off-site power source into each one. Having tested inverter options from several manufacturers, Frank chose Tripp Lite's PV1800HF, "because it has one of the best form factors for our application. Additionally, the inverter is housed in an area where there are high-intensity, short-duration bursts of electromagnetic energy. Although many other brands simply stopped functioning after those bursts, regardless of the protection that we could provide externally, Tripp Lite's inverter withstood them and continued operating." Other issues also affected Frank's decision to choose Tripp Lite. "CE certification is a major deciding factor in component selection," Frank said. "Tripp Lite's certification in that area was essential." He went on to note, "This inverter's price was better than those of the competitors that survived lab trials."



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continued

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Solution:

PV1800HF PowerVerter® Ultra-Compact Inverter

Portable Power for All Applications

- Utilizes vehicle battery to power equipment at a work site, continuously supplying up to 1800 watts of 120V AC power to four AC outlets from any 12V battery or automotive DC source

High-Efficiency Operation Conserves Batteries to Prolong Runtime

- Low battery alarm with auto-shutoff prevents deep battery discharge

- Diagnostic LEDs indicate low battery voltage level and load level

Durable Design Stands Up to Harsh Environments and Frequent Use

- Ultra-compact, with lightweight all-metal housing
- One of the most rugged inverters available at its power level



Results

Megger has deployed 35 PFL20M units in the field, and Jerry Frank let us know the results, "I am happy to report that we have nothing but very satisfied customers. We anticipate building at least 100 units per year using the PV1800HF." His own endorsement of the PV1800HF is unmistakable: "Without doubt, I would recommend the Tripp Lite PV1800HF to other mobile equipment manufacturers. The form factor, power density, availability and price point of the inverter are completely in line with powerful, reliable and economical mobile equipment. Thank you for a fine product and excellent service!"