

GET MORE FROM YOUR WAREHOUSE, WORKERS AND INFRASTRUCTURE WITH A PORTABLE POWER SOURCE



INTRODUCTION

When you need a portable power source, you need convenience, not worries. Unfortunately, worries are what come with most of the available choices. Some require a power cord that might present a tripping hazard. Gasoline generators are noisy and unwieldy, emit fumes, and can only be used outdoors. Many battery packs are too weak and/or don't last long enough between charging.

Now there is an alternative which is far more versatile: a stand-alone portable power package (PPP) capable of supplying clean, seamless AC power for as long as 12 + hours. The ability to power your existing equipment (i.e. scale, label printer, PC, etc.) anywhere within your facility means you have the flexibility to bring power to where the work is. What does this mean for your business? Fewer footsteps to complete tasks, improved accuracy of task execution, fewer workstations needed and higher volumes and throughput for existing facilities and equipment.

MULTITUDE OF APPLICATIONS

Capable of simultaneously powering several electrical devices to carry out many tasks, a PPP is ideal for a multitude of applications:

In an office:

A PPP can power computers, printers, mobile/cordless phones, photocopiers, etc.

In a manufacturing plant or distribution center:

It can power computers for remote data entry/retrieval in addition to devices such as barcode scanners and label printers for quality control, stocking, order-picking, shipping, receiving, etc.

In retail:

A PPP can power computers and other devices to facilitate inventory management and labeling; LED signage; and electronic cash registers and credit-card processors for “line-busting” and for sidewalk sales, garden centers, etc.

At outdoor events:

At events such as weddings, reunions, concerts, fairs, graduations, retreats, rallies, etc., it can power amplifiers, lights, LED signage, etc.

At home:

During power outages, it can power lights, alarm systems, garage doors, computers, printers, televisions, radios, CD/DVD players medical devices, mobile/cordless phones, fans, sump pumps, fish-tank lights/pumps, etc.

In transportation:

It can power mobile kiosks for ticket printing, baggage checking, passenger screening, etc.

In education:

In classrooms, auditoriums, amphitheaters, etc. audio-visual equipment can be powered by a PPP.

Personal recreation:

It can power electric grills, lights, and CD players for tailgating, beach parties, camping, etc.



PROVEN TRACK RECORD

Although the PPP is relatively new to the market, it is not brand new. It has proven its effectiveness in several applications. For example, Restaurant Depot, a members-only wholesale supplier of food, equipment, and supplies to restaurants, designed a PPP-equipped cart that is already used by more than 80 businesses. The cart, which contains a PPP with a



Mobile Weigh & Label Station
At Restaurant Depot

100-AH (seal lead acid) battery, powers an electronic scale and label printer for eight hours at a time and is recharged overnight. This solution eliminates the need for deli workers to move large pallets of meat and cheese to and from stationary workstations to be weighed and labeled. Date codes and price tags can now be created and applied “on-demand”.

Amazon.com, the world’s largest retailer, took the concept a step further as part of a company-wide process improvement initiative. As a fast-paced progressive organization with high quality standards, members of the receiving department need to resolve incoming product discrepancies very quickly. Typical discrepancies include quantities that do not match packing slip/purchase order or products that don’t have a barcode label on them. Management realized that they needed to eliminate the wasted time its receiving personnel spent walking back and forth to computers (to research discrepancies) and fixed label printers if a new barcode label was required. Amazon’s solution, which they have named,

“Mobile Problem Solving Stations,” consists of a PPP with a 200 AH battery which powers a laptop, label printer and scanner for 24 to 36 hours at a time.

Amazon’s carts, more than 1,000 of them, are in use at more than 20 of the company’s fulfillment centers in the United States and the United Kingdom.

Mobile Workstation

A PPP-equipped cart with a wireless computer is really a mobile workstation. Capitalizing on the benefits of auto-ID technologies, it integrates the facility’s software with devices on the cart to establish a mobile on-demand label printing station, a mobile shipping/receiving station, and so on.



Mobile Problem Solving
Station at Amazon.com

In many enterprises, countless hours are wasted as employees walk to and from a desk bound computer where they log information into a database, print labels/orders, etc. Often, these employees are merely keying in or confirming data they have previously written on paper at the work site — a classic redundancy of effort. [Continued on Page 4]



No power outlets at the far corners of your facility?

Problem Solved.

In contrast, managers and employees operating a PPP-equipped workstation have continuous, paperless, real-time access via warehouse management systems (WMS), enterprise resource planning (ERP), or automated data collection (ADC) software from anywhere in the facility.

A single mobile workstation of this kind can often do the job of two or three stationary desks, which means fewer computers and peripherals will be needed overall. For example, the cart can be used all morning at a receiving dock and then wheeled to the shipping department for the afternoon. It also allows you to fully leverage your wireless facility by cutting the power cords and letting your workstations move to where they are needed - with your people.

Because such a workstation can carry relatively heavy peripherals, such as a high-volume label printer, it is more versatile than a handheld scanner or thermal printer. If you already own the computers that the carts will carry, it is also less expensive than converting to handhelds. An “on-demand” high-volume label printing/PC station saves time and labor

because it enables the use of more than one type/size of label, a full computer screen to toggle between different programs, and more.



Problem Solving Station at Amazon.com
(Power Package on bottom shelf)



To see our complete line of mobile power solutions, visit:

www.newcastlesys.com



Mobile Powered Workstation with Integrated Power Package

How to Shop for a Portable Power Package

Obviously, needs differ, so if you think a PPP might improve your workplace, take the time to shop around until you find a sturdy, reliable model with capabilities that best fit your requirements. In many cases, it might be wise to purchase one with extra power and a longer run time, in case you decide to use it for additional devices/tasks in the future.

Ideally, the supplier will carry a comprehensive product line with several battery/inverter/charger configurations. Ask about overall battery life. Size, weight, and proper cabinet ventilation are also considerations. And user-friendly features/accessories such as a power strip and handles are more important than they may at first appear.

Some manufacturers will configure custom PPPs and carts, especially for orders of multiple units. Some have technicians who will make sure your package is fully integrated with the devices you intend to run, and some even have software tools on their websites that help the customer choose the most appropriate power package by calculating the total wattage of the equipment to be supported. Because the power package itself does not have to be plugged in, there are no cords long enough to trip over, but for cords connecting devices on a cart to the PPP, there should be some sort of cord-management system that keeps these cords neat and tangle-free.

Conclusion

Powerful, quiet, and compact, portable power packages are opening up new frontiers of convenience, productivity, and profitability. Offering reliable AC power for indoor or outdoor use, they have many

advantages over extension cords, generators, and weaker battery packs. Their many uses include powering computers, printers, and other devices on a mobile cart, which significantly reduces foot travel and paperwork.

If your business would benefit from the additional flexibility provided by one or more PPPs, shop carefully, plan for future uses, and make sure the model you choose is durable and versatile.



Quickly obtain measurable productivity gains without months of planning and implementation. Workstations are delivered and can be on the floor the same day.



To configure your own mobile powered workstation, visit:

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THE POWER TO MOVE YOUR WORKPLACE



ABOUT NEWCASTLE SYSTEMS

Newcastle Systems' commitment is to provide innovative solutions that help make Auto-ID Technology and other hardware truly mobile and information more readily available across an entire enterprise.

Loss of productivity and inefficiencies such as wasted steps to the printer, inaccurate inventory counts, improper labeling, time delays, manual processing and incorrect shipments are just some of the challenges that are alleviated with a mobile powered workstation.

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