

Provider of mission-critical power generation equipment, parts, and service for the Mid-Atlantic region.



Spring 2019

Power Generation *PULSE*

“We understand what reliability means. When you’re out of power, you’re out of business.”

Al Grimes

Legacy of a Great Business Leader: A Tribute to Al Grimes

Albert Grimes was the President of Curtis Engine from 2006-2018. He passed away in April 2018 and his passing left a huge void, but it also left a big legacy. So as we celebrate **Curtis Engine's 75th Anniversary**, we also celebrate one of our great leaders.



Al Grimes was a true leader—someone you would follow anywhere. And, those brave enough to take the journey would never be disappointed. His stories were legendary. What he would do or say next was totally unpredictable.

He was an accomplished entrepreneur and executive, who had built and grown a number of businesses in the telecommunications industry. Al was part of a group of local investors who acquired Curtis Engine. Al came out of retirement to serve as President of the Company and assembled a great team to reposition and lead the company. [Read more about the legacy of this great business leader...](#)

[Learn more about Leadership, Al Grimes-style](#)

Governor Hogan Kicks Off 75th Anniversary Celebration

Maryland Governor Larry Hogan was the guest of honor at the Curtis Engine ceremonial ribbon-cutting event celebrating the **75th anniversary** of the Mid-Atlantic regional power generation solutions provider. The event, which



kicked off the company's anniversary celebration, took place on Friday, May 10. Attendees included employees, executive leadership and the board of directors of Curtis Engine along with members of the industry news media.

Curtis Engine President and CEO Trip Harrison welcomed Governor Hogan and Curtis

Engine co-owner R. Michael Gill, who served as Maryland Secretary of Commerce until his recent return to private business.

In his introductory remarks, Harrison said, "For 75 years, we have been serving customers who cannot be without power and providing products and services that help ensure that hospitals, data centers, schools, airports and other critical facilities and government operations are not left in the dark during storms or utility outages."

Governor Hogan, in his prepared remarks, said, "I want to extend my sincere congratulations to the entire Curtis Engine team on this incredible milestone. Starting in Baltimore City in 1944 and growing into a thriving, respected, and highly specialized distributor of generator sets, engines, and switchgear is an amazing Maryland – and a uniquely American – business success story."

The Governor then presented Harrison, Curtis Engine COO Paul Koch and Gill with a Governor's Citation honoring Curtis Engine's 75th Anniversary.

R. Michael Gill observed after the Governor did the honors at the ribbon-cutting, "To have that kind of longevity, a business must be resilient and have excellent leadership. It has to do quality work on a consistent basis. And customer service must be excellent. For 75 years, these attributes have defined Curtis Engine."



On the Front Lines: Recruiting and Employing the Best

How do we find disciplined and loyal service technicians who have prior leadership experience, who know how to follow protocols, and who are eager to learn new skills?



At Curtiss Engine, we have discovered that military veterans embody these qualifications and represent the future of our company. In every issue of *Power Generation PULSE*, we honor our veteran employees and acknowledge their service to our country and our customers. We honor their service.



Charles Alcaraz, Sr. joined the Curtiss Engine service team in 1999 and is currently a

Field Service Manager. Charles served the



Stuart Thacker has been a member of the service team for 21 years and is a Senior Technician. His career in providing technical

U.S. Army with distinction in Operation Desert Storm and earned a Bronze Star Medal. His 46 years of experience in generator technology began with U.S. Army Generator School in Fort Belvoir, Virginia. He held numerous Section Chief positions during his career in the military and retired as a Sergeant First Class E-7 after 20 years of serving his country. Says his supervisor, "Charles is the first person to jump in and help anyone. No project is too big or too small. He is highly disciplined. If ever I am in a crisis, he is the person that I would turn to."

service to generators goes back decades to his military service, where he completed the U.S. Army generator program and served as a master instructor.

With three tours of combat duty in the U.S. Army in Iraq, Stuart was awarded three Bronze Service Stars and was recognized for his leadership and technical ability with several Commendation Medals, Achievement Medals and Meritorious Service Medals.

Stuart points out that one meaningful part of his work at Curtis Engine is the importance of working on a piece of generator equipment that could potentially save someone's life, such as at a hospital. His take-away on his career is his pride and dedication to his work.

Safety News: Do You Know?

Storms happen.

Power grids can fail.

***Natural and human-
instigated disasters
are daily threats.***



Hospitals are vulnerable to power failure, and the right backup power generation system is critical. **The NFPA 110 Safety Code** pertains to emergency power supply systems:

Level I Potential electrical equipment failure can lead to loss of life, such as in surgical rooms, intensive care units, data centers, patient care areas, etc.

Level II Loss of power would not result in loss of life, such as general lighting, common area air conditioning, etc.

When planning for a new system or evaluating an existing system, here are some factors to consider:

- **How well prepared is your facility?** NFPA 110 requires life-safety generators to be on line as the alternate power source in 10 seconds or less to bridge the interruption of utility-provided electricity.
- **Is your generator maintenance contractor an expert in NFPA 110 requirements?**
- **Are periodic inspections and testing performed** and recommendations made?
- **Are you prepared for a prolonged power outage?** Hospitals are required to have fuel on hand to power your generator for a minimum of 96 hours. But what about a more prolonged outage?
- **Is the generator and essential electrical system components located to minimize damage** from flooding or high winds that may occur during a

severe storm?

- Have you **tested your system** to ensure that emergency lighting and critical systems will operate as expected in the event of a power outage?
- Do you have a **weekly inspection program** with checklists and log books available for review by the fire inspector on request?



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

What you need to know about NFPA
100

Register for the Upcoming Three-part Webinar Series on **Microgrids**



Curtis Engine is a Mid-Atlantic distributor for **MTU Onsite Energy** power generation solutions.

MTU Onsite Energy has added microgrids to its portfolio, which includes complete power system solutions: from mission critical to standby power to continuous power, heating and cooling.



Curtis Engine and partner **MTU Onsite Energy** are conducting a series of three informative webinars hosted by *Consulting-Specifying Engineer* magazine on **microgrids** and best practices when planning distributed power generation projects.

Participants can receive CEUs and learn:

- **Examples** of successful microgrid projects from around the world and lessons learned.
- **Best practices** to consider when evaluating and planning a potential project.
- **Unique benefits** and challenges of incorporating battery storage solutions into a microgrid.
- **Consideration factors** commonly used to evaluate intelligent automation systems.
- **Benefits of digital simulation** capabilities.
- **Methods of determining** the most economic deployment of energy producing assets.
- And more ...

Receive more information on the three-part webinar series on microgrids

Projects In the News



Suburban Hospital-Johns Hopkins Medicine

Bethesda, Maryland

This landmark hospital undertook the demolition and replacement of its existing aging generator room. As part of the project, Curtis Engine provided two new **MTU Onsite Energy** 1500 kW generator units and Curtis Engine was tasked with assisting with ensuring that the facility's existing **ASCO** and GE Zenith ATS units work with the new equipment.

SOLUTION: This was a challenging project because of the crucial requirements that the hospital be supplied with uninterrupted and reliable power during the demolition, construction and installation of the new power generation equipment.

Curtis Engine worked in concert with **Windsor Electric** to ensure power continuity by providing two backup 1500kW generators in a weatherproof enclosure structure during construction. Curtis Engine's technical team efficiently restarted the existing ATS generator and synchronized the new paralleling switchgear with the new and existing power generation units in the hospital's new generator room.

THE BOTTOM LINE: Thanks to the experienced technical teams working in concert, the project was successfully completed without critical power generation interruption to the hospital.



Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, DC

Curtis Engine is working with **Cynergy Electric** on this project, which started in June 2018 and is projected to be completed in March 2020. The monolithic office complex on Capitol Hill is undergoing a replacement and upgrade to its existing emergency backup power system. Curtis Engine has also worked together with **AECOM** (Engineer of Record for the project) throughout the project and assisted with sizing the generators as well as offering drawings and recommendations for site layouts and specifications for the overall project.

Curtis Engine has supplied two **MTU** 16V4000 DS2000 diesel generator sets with silencers, a 3,000-amp generator connection cabinet and 6,000-amp paralleling switchgear from **ASCO**, diesel day tanks and remote annunciator cabinets.

SOLUTION: The team's willingness to work around the customer's schedule has been tested during this project because work could not be done during normal business hours. Installations and other work have been completed during weekends and evening hours, while maintaining a tight schedule.

The new equipment is installed and all systems are in place. The next phase of the project will be pre-commissioning and commissioning, where the new equipment and systems are rigorously tested for proof of complete functionality. The team is currently working through some government-mandated security changes that were implemented after the plans and specifications were finalized. The team anticipates the beginning of the next phase.

The Bottom Line: According to President David R. Ashburn, **Cynergy Electric**, "We have been doing business with Curtis for over thirty years, and we are confident that they will meet all of the challenges. Curtis does a great job of satisfying the customer's needs."



Curtis Engine & Equipment Co., Inc.

Visit Us: www.curtisengine.com

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