



Case Study

Warehouses Maximize Efficiency with SBS Powered Mobile Carts

Summary

Lighting company Christie Lites sought to improve the efficiency of its growing warehouse operations. It currently has 13 locations with additional warehouses planned for the future. With the deployment of Exponential Power Powered Mobile Carts, the company reduced the amount of hardwired equipment and increased operational speed and flexibility, enabling it to add capacity quickly. Made of powder-coated steel, the carts are durable to stand up in the rugged conditions of their warehouses and are easy to integrate.



Background

With over 460 employees and 13 locations (8 in the US, 4 in Canada and 1 in the UK), Christie Lites is the largest “lighting-only” rental company in North America. The company rents lighting systems used in theatres, concerts, corporate events, sporting events, television & film studios and tradeshow. You’ll find their lighting systems at every auto show in North America as well as several current Broadway shows.

Christie Lites chose Exponential Power Power Mobile Carts to improve the efficiency of their rapidly growing warehouse operations. All of their warehouse equipment in the past was hardwired and computers were seldom ever in the location they needed. Permanent work stations didn’t provide the flexibility to move staff members to where they were needed most. Barcoding is an essential element in the company’s asset control strategy. 75% of the company’s assets are barcoded and they’re in the process of adding more.

According to Dan Souwand, Vice President of Operations, “In the early 2000’s Christie Lites was looking for a mobile computing solution for inventory and receiving work flows that required associates have access to our inventory control software. The Exponential Power PMC-J5 Power Mobile Cart provided a simple reliable and sturdy work station that now makes up the backbone of our mobile workstations. The ability to integrate the carts into our operation has saved thousands of wasted man hours travelling between work stations and product over the last 18 years. This is why you will see many of the carts in all 13 of our locations from Coventry in the UK to Las Vegas in the US.”

Solution

More than 100 Exponential Power Power Mobile Carts (PMC J-5) are deployed throughout the company’s 13 warehouses to process trailer loads of lighting equipment. In the company’s small warehouses their staff processes about 3 trailer loads / week. In their large warehouses (160k square feet), they process about 50 trailers / week. The durable design is perfect for holding the computer monitor and barcode scanner.



Results

Deploying SBS Power Mobile Carts has provided Christie Lites numerous advantages.

- Warehouse efficiency has increased by 30%. Average trailer processing time has decreased. Receiving areas are cleared out more quickly. Warehouse associates take fewer wasted steps. Run time on the battery is optimal.
- Operational flexibility has been greatly improved. The company no longer has to set up stationary work areas. The carts allow the company to set up temporary test stations. If they have to double the capacity in any given department, they roll in carts easily.
- The carts allow personnel to test equipment right off the onboard battery current. That means Christie Lites can create a mobile version of their Light Test Department when they get busy.
- The company can expand its team of warehouse associates quickly. It's easier to have a new employee work with a cart as opposed to a stationary, physical location.
- The speed of setting up a new warehouse is greatly improved.
- Warehouses are rough on their equipment and SBS carts are more durable than some competitors' products.
- Equipment integration is quick. No learning curve is needed for new associates because the carts are plug and play.
- Better visibility and more ergonomic. Compared to a handheld device, the screen on the cart-mounted monitor is much easier to read and less awkward to work with.

Features

- Dimensions: 32"L x 22"W x 43"H
- Open storage compartment for easy access
- Bar code scanner holder
- 6" large industrial swivel/locking rubber caster wheels
- Integrated cable raceways
- Heavy duty 12ga powder coated steel

Specifications

- DC power is contained (not exposed) for safe operating
- Long life, maintenance-free, non-hazardous VRLA battery
- Battery status meter/fuel gauge
- Smart power supply/battery charger with LED indicators
- Industrial grade modified sine wave DC to AC power inverter

