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A battery manufacturer makes batteries for a variety of different customers including automotive units for cars, trucks, and motorcycles as well as UPS backup batteries for data centers. Their flexibility to adapt their products to new market segments is legendary in the industry.

Power is a major consideration in their facilities since they consume so much of it and it is critical to their product. For the plant engineer, the ability to collect historic load information was a critical reason for choosing a PowerLogic® Power Monitoring System.

Batteries must be charged once produced. At the battery plant that means about 42 MW of power for total production of which 55-60% is for charging product. The charging systems are 6-pulse DC rectifiers, which place significant harmonic distortion on the power distribution system. Since the power company charges about \$6.50/kVARH whenever the power factor is below -0.95, capacitor banks are necessary. Unfortunately, harmonics and capacitors do not mix very well so the plant engineer needed a way of historically characterizing the harmonic levels and their sources. The PowerLogic® historical charting function and steady state waveform capture allowed him to see when and where high levels were occurring (as high as 67% on Voltage).

The battery plant also monitors real time events such as under-voltage for utility performance monitoring. Steady state waveform capture also helped the engineer monitor harmonics such as those that occur when the rectifiers are lightly loaded. Load management is much easier using the PowerLogic® System where plant engineer can mix and match virtually any combination of displays and graphics in order to address a unique situation now and in the future. The system also minimizes the amount of time he spends in gathering data from a variety of meters around the facility.

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