



Case Study: Electric Power Plant

Uptime is critical for an electric power plant. To most of us a power outage is an inconvenience, but to some it can mean loss of income, revenue, and in some cases loss of life. By their very nature, power plants are difficult environments. The electrical noise is tremendous, and temperature extremes are not unusual. Power surges are also common, and they can render ordinary commercial Ethernet switches useless. When a systems integrator in the southwest US won a contract to configure a network for an electric plant in the middle east, they wanted the most durable, dependable Ethernet switches available. They also wanted to build in as much redundancy as possible.

N-TRON 508FX2 and 9000 series switches were chosen for the application because they met or exceeded all of the criteria of the customer and of the IEEE 1613 specifications. With an operating temperature range of -20°C to 70°C the desert conditions and heat generated by the equipment would not be a problem. Fast electrical transients common in power generation systems would have no adverse effect on communications thanks to 10/100Base fiber ports on the 508TX and the 9002 FX and 9004FX modules for the 9000 series. 102PC-SEs made connecting legacy serial devices possible. N-View provided superior monitoring capabilities. Dual redundant rings were configured and every component had a counterpart on the second ring for the ultimate in redundancy.

Topology for Electric Power Generation Plant

