Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc. (BIVI) is a world-renowned company engaged in the biological research, development, and manufacturing of animal health products. Its parent company, based in Ingelheim, Germany, is a global business specializing in chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and health care products for both humans and animals.

Headquartered in Saint Joseph, Missouri, BIVI ranks among the top ten animal health product manufacturers in the United States, producing an assortment of products for distribution around the globe. The Saint Joseph campus is a 70-acre world class facility encompassing a variety of buildings dedicated to advanced research and development, as well as manufacturing.

BIVI develops, manufactures, and markets innovative vaccines for horses, cattle, pigs, and companion animals.

Located within the heart of BIVI’s Saint Joseph campus is their maintenance and boiler building that provides heating and process steam for various production lines located throughout the campus. As part of an expansion program, BIVI proposed adding backup power to the building and selected Vertex Engineering & Utility Services of Saint Joseph to put together the design plan for the project.

The electrical service to the boiler building is supplied by three separate service entrances with two different voltages. As Vertex began outlining the design scope of the project, it appeared that the most economical way to supply standby power to the critical loads was to provide backup service to the entire building. After Vertex determined the generator requirements, their staff consulted with Rick Jennings of Comet Industrial Products, the local Generac Power Systems dealer.

“The starting power requirements for the building dictated a generator capacity of at least 600 kilowatts,” Jennings says. “I thought that Generac’s new Gemini Twin Pack genset, rated at 750 kW, would be ideally suited for the project. It’s a dual generator product with twin 375 kW units housed inside a single enclosure, with an integrated paralleling capability that combines their power to provide up to 750 kilowatts of output.”

“Rick prepared two proposals for us that included both the single 600 kW generator and the 750 kW Gemini alternative,” says Melissa Edwards, P.E., project engineer with Vertex. “The Gemini system was clearly the most economical solution for the project, and that’s what we selected. We ended up having a lower cost per kilowatt by going with the Gemini Twin Pack, versus a larger capacity single engine generator. We also got the added benefit of having some redundancy within the system, to

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provide even greater reliability."

Since the building has two service voltages, the backup power system is configured with a step-down transformer to supply the 208 Volt service. The Gemini system supplies 480 Volt power to the Generac GTS transfer switch. The transfer switch is controlled by the PowerManager® control module, which is also tied in with command of the downstream 208 Volt service transfer switch. The Gemini system was commissioned in December of 2002, and has been providing reliable standby power ever since.

Boehringer Ingelheim is a forward-looking company, and its mission statement is clearly stated. "The route to success we have chosen is Value Through Innovation, sharing our customers’ aspirations and needs, and meeting them by finding new ways to achieve greater value in everything we do." With that philosophy, it’s no surprise that BIVI was among the first companies to purchase the new Gemini genset, an innovative product from Generac Power Systems – a company that exemplifies that very same approach to power generation.