

MGE UPS SYSTEMS

MGE Powers Art: Growing, Raining Tree

MGE UPS SYSTEMS and Amorphic Robot Works converge on Cincinnati, Ohio

MGE UPS SYSTEMS provides the power backup for an installation of interactive sculptural art...

"The Giving Tree" is a touching story about a young boy and a tree that keeps on giving. The boy eventually grows up, but he keeps coming back to visit the tree. Even when the boy cuts down the tree to use its wood, the tree still has something left to give. This, and other stories have left long-lasting impressions on us.

Chico MacMurtrie, Artistic Director of Amorphic Robot Works, has created another kind of story and experience in a graceful interactive sculpture entitled "The Growing, Raining Tree". This commissioned artwork is on display for three years in the UnMuseum, the 6th floor of the new Center for Contemporary Arts. The Tree interacts with visitors by moving its articulated limbs and raining water from its branches into a quiet pool of water surrounding the Tree. The two control computers, interface chassis, and camera system are backed up by a Pulsar Evolution 1100 made by MGE UPS SYSTEMS.

The Tree needed reliable power backup and graceful shutdown on a tight budget. "A power fault could allow this mechanically powerful servopneumatic sculpture to damage itself, its pool liner, or the UnMuseum ceiling – we can't have that." said Frank Hausman, a project engineer. "So we need our UPS to run for three years, allowing graceful shutdown and restart, with little local maintenance."

ARW selected the Pulsar Evolution 1100 due to its rapid switchover, boost/fader mode, high reserve power, extended hold-up time, built-in choices of serial and USB host communication, and available optional Dry Contact Status Indicator Card. When maintenance is due for the batteries, local maintenance staff can simply replace the Hot-Swappable battery module to let the Tree keep on safely Growing, Raining and interacting.

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Frank Hausman • project engineer



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