CASE STUDY

SOLDIER FIELD

Soldier Field, Chicago's premier event venue, hosts over 200 public and private events annually. The stadium is owned by the Chicago Park District and managed by ASM Global (formerly SMG), the world leader in venue management, marketing, and development.

Soldier Field and the Chicago Park District were awarded LEED-EB certification for an existing building from the U.S. Green Building Council. The stadium was the first North American stadium and first NFL stadium to earn the prestigious award.

Working together, Soldier Field, SMG, and the Chicago Park District implemented energy conservation and recycling programs along with the use of green cleaning chemicals and the reuse of construction materials at the stadium. In the press release about the LEED certification, Chicago Park District General Superintendent Mike Kelly says, "It is the responsibility of the Soldier Field family and its patrons to decrease the impact of the stadium on its environment whenever possible."

As one of the greenest stadiums in the world, Soldier Field wanted a centralized solution that eliminated ongoing labor costs associated with turning devices on and off in the field's 133 luxury suites while continuing to save energy.

Each suite has multiple TVs and a refrigerator that stadium electricians manually turned on and off before and after each event. In addition, security personnel were frequently dispatched to individual suites during evening concert events to turn distracting TVs off.

Project at a Glance

ABOUT

Soldier Field was the first LEED-EB certified NFL stadium.

OPPORTUNITY

Soldier Field needed a solution to remotely control plug load devices in the stadium's luxury suites.

SOLUTION

564 BERT® Smart Plugs with Control and Analysis

RESULTS

$24,000
Annual Labor Savings

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Solution

Soldier Field chose BERT as their plug load control vendor. All TVs and refrigerators were plugged into a Bert, which was plugged back into the existing outlet. The Berts use the existing Wi-Fi network to communicate with the BERT software application in the facilities office at the stadium. Instead of making multiple trips to and from each suite for each event, stadium facilities staff now remotely control the devices from their office. TVs and refrigerators are powered on before the first fans arrive and powered down when the fans go home. BERT's flexible scheduling system allows TVs to be scheduled separately to make sure they are on for sporting events but off for nighttime concerts.

Results

Implementing the BERT system allowed Soldier Field to save $24,000 a year in labor costs.

The Power of BERT

When it comes to intelligent buildings, BERT controls the small things and delivers big. With 120,000 units installed in over 700 buildings, BERT's end-to-end solution typically lowers plug load expense by 40 percent, saving users over 13 million kWh annually.

Using patented technologies and the facility's existing Wi-Fi network, BERT remotely measures, analyzes, and controls plug and hardwired loads, ranging from individual 120V/15A devices to 277V/20A circuits. Frequently installed as a standalone solution, BERT delivers even greater value by integrating miscellaneous electric loads into Building Automation Systems (BAS), enabling the BAS to control all building loads and to collect additional measurement, temperature, and other building data for increased efficiency and comfort.

Learn how K-12 schools, colleges, offices, local governments, and sporting venues save money and energy by visiting bertbrain.com.

BERT's standard BertBrain software offers a robust range of functions.

CONTROL

Automatically power loads off during nights, weekends, and holidays when buildings are unoccupied. Each device, group of devices, building, or group of buildings can have unique schedules based on specific operating hours.

MEASUREMENT

Get real-time energy usage data and historical power usage by hour, day, month, year, and user-defined time-period. BERT uses measurement data to establish the Baseline Load for M&V.

ANALYSIS

Centralized server software makes analysis a breeze, with features like the BERT User Interface, a comprehensive reporting system to analyze energy consumption for schedule optimization and savings verification, and a detailed event log.

THRESHOLD

User-defined power threshold settings prevent devices from turning off until the normal shutdown cycle is complete. Every time the device is scheduled to switch off, the threshold is checked. This prevents the device from turning off until the power level falls below the threshold.

TEMPERATURE

Customers can control devices such as PTAC, AC units, and heaters using high and low temperature set points.