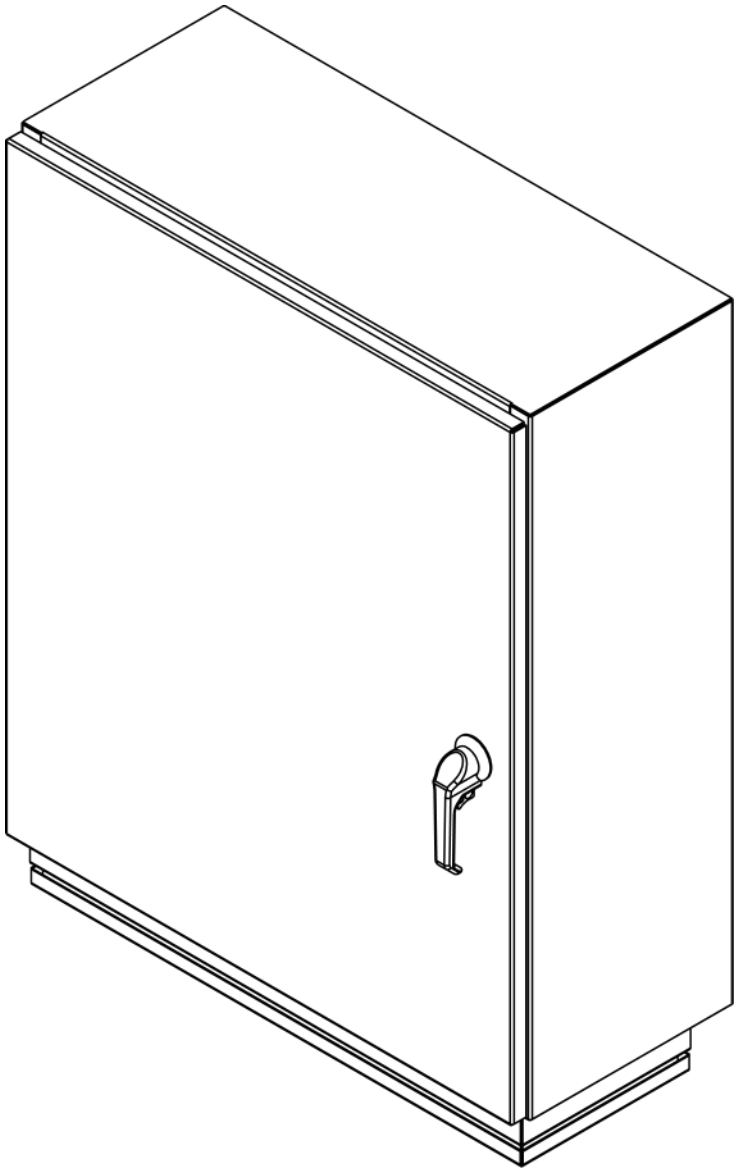
Generator Docking Stations

When to use a GDS and how they can maximize your portable power workflow.

This whitepaper covers the essential use cases and features you should look for in any generator docking station.



Autonomy Technology Inc

Overview

The Generator Docking Station (GDS) is a quick and convenient means to connect temporary power to a facility. The GDS has an enclosure and industry standard Series 16 Cam Lock connections. During a power outage, a temporary power source can be safely plugged in to the GDS using the Cam Lock connections and without the expertise of an electrician.

Why do you need one?

What are the advantages of having a Generator Docking Station? When a facility could have an automatic transfer switch with a permanent generator why would they want to go with a GDS?

Having a Generator Docking Station means you don't have to store fuel on-site for your permanent generator, you don't have the constant maintenance or standard periodic testing, you don't have the big price tag that permanent generators come with, and as a result the costs are signficantly lower. Not to mention, a portable generator can simply be rented instead of bought, transferred between facilities, and you do not need the multitude of permits that a permanent generator requires. Additionally, installation is much simpler and eliminates hardwiring into an emergency power panel.

Use Cases For GDS Units

Commercial Buildings

Commercial building owners are increasingly seeking out Generator Docking Stations (GDS). For the owners/managers of commercial buildings, the GDS lets them rest assured knowing that temporary power can be connected to the building quickly through CAM connection inputs; and without the expertise of an electrician. This saves them time and money, and makes the GDS a very appealing add-on to the building.

Gas Stations, Restaurant Chains, and General Retail

Retail and service locations like tire centers, gas stations, and chain restaurants are served particularly well by the addition of a GDS. Managers for these types of locations do not want the hassle of getting a generator hardwired in the event of a power outage. Additionally, the longer these buildings remain out of power, the longer they won't be serving customers and generating revenue, which creates huge pressure on management to reduce the length of the power outage. Once again, the GDS saves buildings time and money.

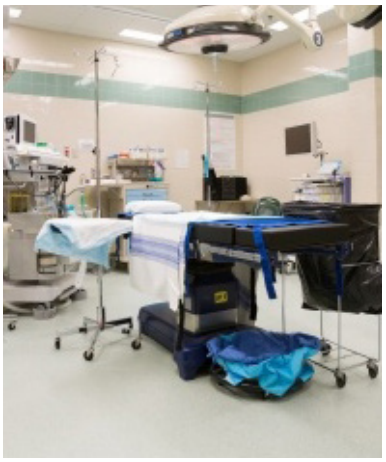
How Does This play out?

Let's say you are trying to match the spec for a new distribution center for an American global courier delivery service company. The customer wants temporary power to be available to the building, but also needed the flexibility of using CAM locks to hook up the temporary power source. Having a GDS would provide an instant, but flexible, source of portable power you could use in the field.

Educational Facilities

From elementary schools to universities, educational facilities stand to benefit greatly from having a Generator Docking Station installed. The owners and managers for these facilities will always want to reduce the amount of time their buildings are out of power, and the GDS provides them this solution. Students inside elementary schools or dormitories will be safer if they have a means of quickly and safely getting power in the event of cold temperatures that come along with the storms that cause a power outage.

Educational construction contractors will want to offer generator docking stations on their bids.



Healthcare Facilities

Healthcare facilities such as medical centers are a perfect fit for Generator Docking Stations. Their need for power is much more urgent than other use cases, as a loss of power can mean the inability to provide care to sick patients. Speed and ease of connectivity are significant considerations for these facilities.

Temporary Job Sites

Generator Docking Stations are also often used on temporary construction and mining sites where there is no utility power to supply the site. Mining processes require consistent uptime to produce revenue, as well as provide a safe work environment. Job site managers enjoy the significant flexibility the GDS provides them in connecting a power supply. In these cases, managers look to generator dealers to provide these types of solutions. Dealers who stock GDS's are favorable to construction and mining sites.

Industrial Facilities

Facilities like manufacturing plants and food production facilities will certainly need the option for a Generator Docking Station in any contracting bids they are to consider. Again, the loss of power ultimately results in the loss of revenue.

Manufacturing plants that aren't re-powered quickly enough lose money by not creating new products to be sold and wasting labor hours for workers who are there but not able to use equipment. In the case of food production, both of those factors are in play, plus the lack of power can mean spoiled product if refrigeration is shut down for too long; possibly resulting in a nightmare to the tune of millions for food production facility managers.

Your Product In Action.

You are the owner of an electrical contracting business. You recently installed a Generator Docking Station for a potato chip factory. A food production factory needs to be able to access temporary power rapidly in order to keep up with production and prevent the spoilage of product.

Ultimately, industrial facilities need Generator Docking Stations.

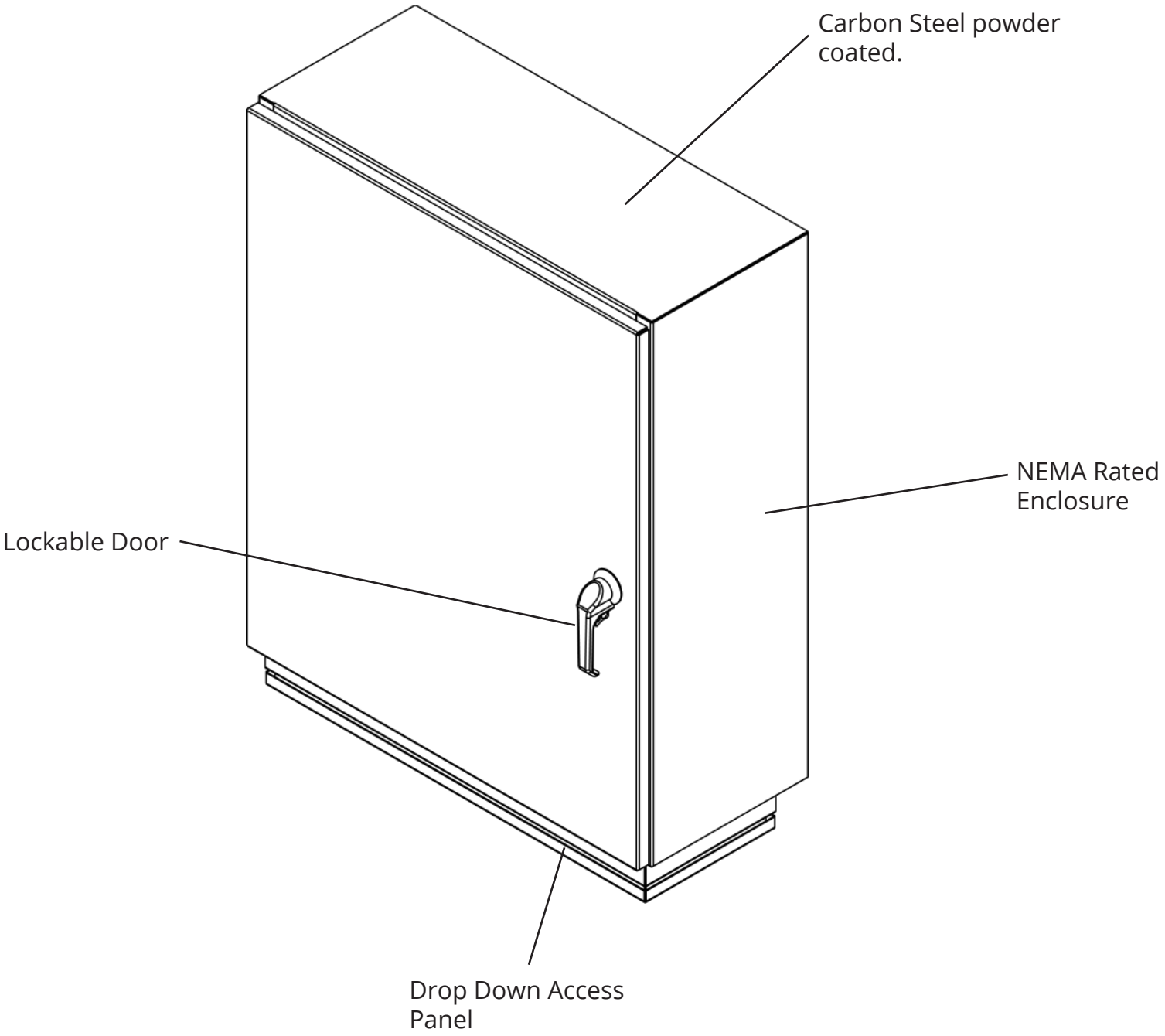
Time Savings

Connecting backup power to a building without a GDS may require complicated wiring connections that take too long in emergency situations. Installing a GDS unit allows for quicker connection to the building by utilizing fast and easy cam lock inputs. These inputs are also color coded and labeled for stress-free connection when it matters most.

The cam lock inputs allow for temporary power connections to be made by even the untrained. This means not only do you save time by not having to make any complicated wiring connections, but you also save time by not having to wait around for an electrician to make the installation.

Features to Look For in a GDS

GDS units provide easy and quick access. However, it pays to be a well-informed buyer of the best design practices that make the most functional GDS's.



Features to Look For in a GDS

UL Listing

GDS units that have been approved under the UL1008 standard are going to be the ones to look for. With the UL1008 listing, customers can enjoy peace of mind knowing that these products have been rigorously tested to ensure quality, reliability, and safety. UL1008 involves all transfer switch equipment. Contracts for commercial real estate will often require UL listed equipment.

Lockable Enclosures

Lockable GDS's help prevent tampering or unwanted attention to your mobile power stations in uncertain environments.

Coated Exterior

A coated exterior, such as a carbon steel, grey powdered exterior, can help prevent your enclosure from rusting in dramatic areas.

NEMA 4/12 Waterproof Rating

You want to make sure you have properly rated and water resistant enclosures to ensure their will be no liquid entering the frame.

Drop Down Door Security

Your GDS needs to have an access panel that restricts access when the cables are not in use.

Conclusion

Generator Docking Stations are more prominent in the market due to the overt benefit they provide: they allow untrained individuals to quickly connect temporary power to the building or facility. A power outage means the loss of money, safety, or, in some cases, both. This loss is multiplied over the length of time of the outage, and anything that reduces this time is extremely appealing to building owners and facility managers. The Generator Docking Station is a cost-effective and flexible solution for accomplishing this. As opposed to an automatic transfer switch and a permanent generator, the Generator Docking Station is a feasible option for every facility manager and building owner.

The Generator Docking Station gives greater control over a power outage situation. It literally puts the *power over power* into the hands of those who care about it the most; the building owners and facility managers. The emotional benefit that this provides means Generator Docking Stations are going to quickly become a standard in the electrical construction industry.

To learn more about the installation of a generator docking station, click the link below:

GDS Spec Sheet