TECH TIP

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Top Three Considerations for Selecting the Right 5G Wireless Enclosure

The first generation of 5G wireless networks have arrived. But is your network infrastructure truly ready for the innovative speed, low latency and dynamic provisioning capabilities these new networks are expected to deliver? Now's not the time to waffle, especially as increased subscriber demands via new services trend across mobile, residential and business markets.

And if you're responsible for ensuring the availability and speed of an emerging 5G networks, it's important to be aware of what 5G enables and how it will impact your network. Doing so will then equip you to choose the right application-specific equipment enclosures as the first step toward ensuring a successful network expansion.

5G is not a carrier-only upgrade. 5G requires physical upgrades to network infrastructure as it impacts all physical networks, including enterprise-owned premise networks and emerging edge networks.

Selecting the Ideal 5G Enclosure Solution

Because enclosure solutions are the first line of defense in protecting your sensitive electronics and related information and communications technology (ICT) equipment, it's important to be thorough in your selection process. Here are three key considerations when selecting enclosures to store and secure the valuable equipment your 5G wireless network will depend on.

Are You "In" or Are You "Out"? Location Matters.

Enclosure type refers to the level of environmental protection an enclosure provides and the designated rating that it provides against particulate or liquid penetration, as well as corrosion resistance. Indoor enclosures in controlled environments, such as computer and equipment rooms are often open to allow for airflow. Outdoor enclosures need additional protection against particulates, liquids, chemicals or salt air depending on their exact placement.

Whether you are expanding a 5G network into new neighborhoods or placing new infrastructure to create the 5G wireless cellular network, you'll need to protect electronic equipment in more outdoor environments. Environmental enclosures, like the one pictured here, provide a secure, rugged way to ensure protection when placed within nontraditional IT environments.

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UPS solution from CPI

Horizontal PDU solution from CPI

Do You Have the "Power"? Electronics Matters.

Enclosures that house 5G network equipment could require multiple power connections for equipment. A rack-mount Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) and/or Power Distribution Unit (PDU) are primary options. UPSs condition utility power and include a battery to provide ride-through power if utility power is lost. Both UPSs and PDUs offer optional remote monitoring of power, which is especially helpful for optimizing site utilization. PDUs also offer remote control options that allow network managers to reset equipment, perform environmental monitoring to ensure proper conditions, and integrate remote access controls to protect against unauthorized access to equipment—all ideal for 5G applications that are more likely to reside in nontraditional, outdoor environments where security is paramount.

Optional fan kit

Can You Feel the Heat? Temperature Matters.

Choose an enclosure that provides optimal thermal management of your 5G infrastructure equipment. Because 5G networks can require both indoor and outdoor enclosures, it's important to look for those enclosures that either allow for easy venting of hot, exhaust air, or the ability to add optional fan kits (like the one seen here) that further aid in promoting airflow and cooling to prevent overheating, and worse, equipment failure. Additionally, look for solutions that:

- Easily integrate with cooling units and Filter Fans that also meet NEMA Type ratings.
- Use specialized seals for cable openings in order to maintain NEMA protection ratings.

Trust Your 5G Infrastructure Equipment to a Proven Protector of IT Assets

CPI is a proven expert in the design, manufacture and customization of enclosures. Our expertise includes thermal management and remote monitoring for enclosed equipment. Along with Oberon, a division of Chatsworth Products, that specializes in wireless enclosures, CPI offers a full range of solutions for indoor and outdoor applications, along with access to experts that can assist with rapid selection, modification and customization of enclosures to match specific requirements. Please contact a CPI Technical Support Specialist (techsupport@chatsworth.com) for more details.

To learn more about CPI enclosure solutions for 5G networks, visit chatsworth.com/en-us/5G

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