CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO TAKES ENERGY SAVINGS TO A NEW LEVEL AT LARGEST CITY-OWNED PARKING GARAGE

The Fifth & Mission Parking Garage in San Francisco, California, plays an important role in supporting both residential and visitor activity. At 965,600 square feet, it encompasses roughly one full city block and boasts eight floors of parking with 2,574 spaces. In addition to being the largest city-owned parking garage in San Francisco, it’s also the busiest, serving a broad cross-section of businesses as well as a small residential community mostly made up of middle income and senior housing. Overall, its centralized location makes it ideal for commuters, shoppers, and business professionals looking to safely park their vehicles.

Recently, however, the City and the Garage recognized that safety was being challenged due to the existing 400W metal halide lighting fixtures installed in the garage, which were aging, and consequently offering insufficient lighting coverage.

Safety Experts Take a Dim View on Poor Garage Lighting

According to the online security blog Security Today, for violent crimes, parking garages and lots are ranked second after crimes committed on residential properties. In parking garages specifically, dim lighting is cited as a key contributing factor, as it enables criminals to hide between parked vehicles. While the 5th & Mission Parking Garage makes security a high priority, with regular security patrols and an escort service available upon request, its 1,300+ metal halide lighting fixtures were showing their age and not providing the kind of lighting necessary to instill user confidence and discourage criminal activity. The City of San Francisco recognized the poor lighting conditions at 5th & Mission and, in February 2018, began to take action, meeting with Xeleum, an EiKO company, to review these safety and security concerns, and to discuss how lighting can immediately improve the situation.
A Time to Shine

With the help of its San Francisco distributor, Independent Electric Supply (a Sonapar Company), Xeleum, an EiKO company, approached the City with efficient and effective lighting solutions, and not only demonstrated that better light levels can enhance security and the customer experience, but can also result in potential monthly energy savings averaging $15,000 a month. To convince the City, four EiKO Phaeton fixtures were installed side-by-side against three other competitors for 90 days. In the end, the City chose the Phaetons over the competition as the best solution because of their superior performance and greatest potential energy savings. Energy rebates and a fast return on investment ($500K over only 20 months) were key factors in helping to close the deal.

“Mock up installations are essential when choosing a lighting product,” said Rina A. Lopez, Associate Energy Engineer for Energy Programs for the City of San Francisco. “The city of San Francisco prides itself on focusing on the environmental impact and return on investment to our city. When choosing our lighting solution we worked with several different LED lighting manufacturers to improve sustainability, maximize energy savings, and increase the safety and security of our residents and visitors. We chose the Xeleum Phaeton canopy parking garage fixture [because it] has integrated intelligent wireless lighting controls, which earned us the largest rebate and fastest ROI while offering the advanced LED and controls technology.”

5th & Mission...Accomplished!

Discussions with the City of San Francisco and the 5th & Mission Garage began in February of 2018. Ultimately an order was placed in December of 2018 for 1,045 Xeleum fixtures. A combination of 821 75W Phaeton, 166 42W Artemis and 58 160W Zephyr fixtures were installed in multiple applications including garage ceilings, stairwells, and poles for rooftop area parking. Installing the integrated Xi-Fi intelligent wireless controls provided the City and Parking Garage with the ability to achieve even more energy savings.

With enhanced security, a better customer experience, greater energy savings, and a fast ROI all achieved for the City of San Francisco, the 5th & Mission project was truly a mission accomplished.